

Arabsat drops French channel for showing pornography

RIYADH (AP) — The Arab Communications Satellite stopped broadcasting a French channel after it aired a pornographic movie to the satellite's Arab subscribers, Arabsat said Sunday. The movie broadcast by Canal France Internationale Saturday afternoon "went over the limits, and we will seek to cancel our contract with them," Arabsat said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. Saad Badnah, the head of Arabsat, said that despite warnings not to show movies that violated public morals, Canal France Internationale continued to broadcast programmes on Arabsat that violated Islamic and Arab cultural values. The French channel said it had intended to broadcast the movie on another satellite.

Jordan Times

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Israeli army chief of staff visits Gaza

GAZA (AFP) — Israeli army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Shuhak viewed Palestinian construction of a port near Gaza City Sunday during a naval tour of the area, a military spokesman said. The Palestinians have begun building a jetty south of the city despite complaints by Israel that it is a violation of their peace accords because they have not yet agreed on security details for the port. Israel earlier this year banned the export of blocks of rocks to the Gaza Strip in an attempt to stop the Palestinians from starting work on what will be their first port. The Palestinians in turn accuse Israel of blocking the building of the sea port and an airport in self-ruled Gaza by refusing to agree on security clearances.

Israeli opposition leader to meet Arafat

GAZA (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is slated to meet with Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak next week, Palestinian and Israeli officials said Sunday. The meeting Thursday will be the first between the two since Mr. Barak was elected June 4 as the head of the Labour Party. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been stalled since Israel began construction in March on a new Jewish settlement in occupied Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians hope to make the capital of a future state.

Sudanese official sacked on embezzlement charges

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Sudanese regional minister has been sacked and is undergoing interrogation for suspected misappropriation of 300 million Sudanese pounds, a Khartoum daily reported Sunday. Ramadan Mubor, the finance minister in Alwihda, southern Sudan, is believed to have received the money from the federal finance ministry to pay state workers' salaries but did not make the payments, the Alwan daily said. The paper said Alwihdah legislative council last year ordered the dismissal of several members of the regional government, including Mubor, for long absences from work, failure to distribute wages and food rations, and financial mismanagement.

Pro-government militia killed 69 rebels in Sudanese town

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Sudanese pro-government militia killed 69 members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel movement in fighting for the southern town of Ayod, the militia has claimed. The South Sudan Defence Force (SSDF), a former rebel grouping which in April signed a peace agreement with Khartoum, killed 69 SPLA troops and wounded 71 others when it recaptured the town from the SPLA last week, a spokesman told the Alwan daily newspaper published Sunday. The SPLA has refused to sign a peace agreement with Khartoum. The movement has been fighting to end Khartoum's rule over the south of the massive African country since 1983. The war that has killed an estimated one million people.

Jordan to help PNA offset trade and health problems

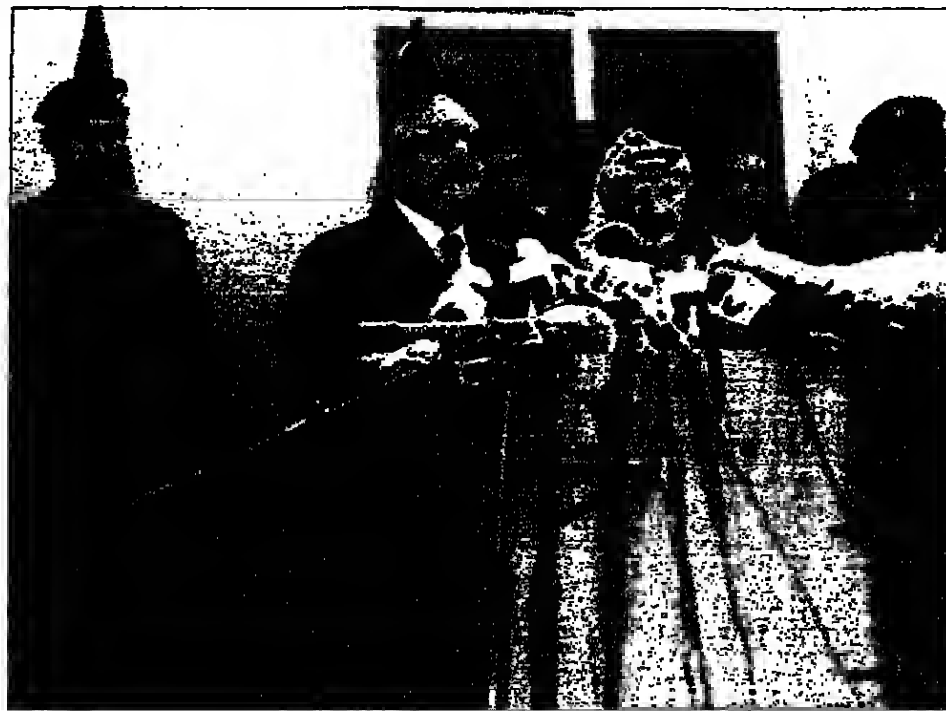
RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Jordan on Sunday reaffirmed its stand by the Palestinian leadership and people in their quest to regain freedom and independence and said that the two sides will boost economic ties to offset the disastrous effects of Israel's security closure of the Palestinian territories.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali voiced the Jordanian stand at a press conference he held jointly with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at the conclusion of a day-long visit to the Palestine self-rule city of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Dr. Majali, making his first visit to the Palestinian territories since taking office last February, said "we will use all means available to us to support the Palestinian people's endeavours and rights."

"We are ready to respond to any call from the Palestinians for assistance because we always stand by them," added Dr. Majali. "Many issues related to bilateral ties were discussed at the meeting but we focused mainly on economic and trade matters," noted Dr. Majali. We reviewed progress in implementation of agreements and we found that progress did not reach the desired level and so we expressed determination to reactivate all the joint committees so as to further enhance bilateral ties."

Noting that he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to the Palestinian President, Dr. Majali said that his talks with the Palestinian leadership covered the Middle East peace process and ways for further



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at the joint press conference in Ramallah (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

ther bolstering economic and trade links between Jordan and Palestine.

"We have decided to revive committees already in place, especially those for trade and economy," said the prime minister.

In reply to a question about prospects for an Arab summit meeting, Dr. Majali said: "We have not received an invitation for an Arab summit but we support a pan-Arab decision for such a meeting. The Arab countries are oriented towards peace, which has become a strategic option for all."

The two sides agreed on creating a joint committee comprising senior officials from the two countries to work out a joint mechanism to facilitate the flow of goods between the two sides and said that the com-

mittee will commence its task within two weeks.

The two sides also agreed to organise tripartite meetings grouping Jordan, Israel and Palestine to discuss Israel's barriers impeding trade.

Jordan expressed readiness to meet Palestinian needs in all fields and said that it will facilitate Palestinian exports to the Kingdom through the country to other destinations.

Also discussed were scopes of cooperation in health fields, with the Jordanian side expressing readiness to offer treatment to Palestinian patients in Jordanian hospitals.

Jordan said that it seeks to increase the volume of trade between the two sides to reach at least \$150 million annually.

The prime minister was

accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani, Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh and Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi.

The two sides were expected to sign an agreement on health cooperation between the two sides and the treatment of Palestinian patients in Jordanian hospitals.

The head of Jordan's representation office in Gaza, Ziyad Majali, described the talks as successful and positive.

For his part, Palestine Minister of Culture and Information Yasser Ahdarabto told the press that the two sides have underlined the need for efforts to be made for the resumption of the peace process.

Arafat 'not ready' to meet Netanyahu — spokesman

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is not ready to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as long as the expansion of Jewish settlements continues, his spokesman said Sunday.

"Before any meeting, Israel must remove the obstacles it has put in the path of peace and resolve the causes of the crisis, in particular an end to settlement activity," Nabil Abu Rudeina told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Abu Rudeina was responding to comments by Mr. Netanyahu reported in an Egyptian government newspaper Saturday that a summit was necessary with Mr. Arafat to end a four-month stalemate in peace negotiations.

The Israeli prime minister said, "the situation will keep getting worse as long as the Palestinians refuse to resume

the negotiations. We must talk because peace cannot be established by violence."

President Arafat's spokesman said, "If Netanyahu is serious about the peace process, he must implement the accords and stop the settlement construction and the confiscation of land."

The two leaders have not met since February. The following month, the Palestinians stormed out of peace talks to protest the construction of a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu vowed to press ahead with expanding settlements and said he would never agree to the Palestinians' demand to have Arab east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

Meanwhile, the Israeli newspaper Maariv reported Sunday that Israel's environment ministry is working on a

plan to dump household trash in the Palestinian territories.

Nahum Ronen, director general of the ministry, was quoted as saying that a large mountain of trash near Tel Aviv could be used to fill holes in Israeli quarries in the rocky hillsides of the West Bank.

Mr. Ronen said he did not understand why the Palestinians had voiced no enthusiasm for the project because it would fill in large scars left by Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, the paper added.

"It is difficult for us to push forward this plan because there is no cooperation from the Palestinians," he said. But the ministry plans to push through the project, Mr. Ronen said.

"I hope they [Palestinians] will have the wisdom to understand that this is a good plan," he said.

Obeidat expresses shock at Dakamseh's 'severe' sentence

AMMAN (AFP) — Defence lawyers for a Jordanian soldier sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour for the massacre of seven Israeli schoolgirls voiced shock Sunday at the sentence, charging it was too severe.

"When the crime is not premeditated, the sentence should be between 15 years to life," said former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, a lawyer for Ahmad Dakamseh, 26, who was sentenced Saturday in a military court in Amman.

"In the case of a crime affecting more than one vic-

tim, life imprisonment is the usual sentence... but the court applied this without taking into consideration the mental state of the accused," he said.

Mr. Obeidat repeated defence claims that Dakamseh suffered mental problems, saying two psychiatrists testified as much, and added that the sentence should have been 10 to 15 years.

Dakamseh escaped the death penalty when the court ruled that the murder of the schoolgirls visiting the border tourist spot known as "peace island" March 13 was

not premeditated or politically motivated.

The five-judge panel, which had heard that the soldier had a history of mental problems, said his shooting spree could be explained by "personality disorders," "extreme fatigue after a 22-hour guard shift," and "sexual frustration, because his wife had recently given birth."

It dismissed his claims that he was provoked by the schoolgirls who mocked him as he prayed.

U.S. studies two-way compromise to get peace process going again

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

BOSTON — The U.S. is studying a compromise that involves an Israeli "pause" in settlement building in return for a Palestinian approval to go straight into final status negotiations. But the U.S. will not overt its ideas before a complete halt of "violence" and a Palestinian commitment not to encourage "hostile acts" against Israel, well-informed sources said Sunday.

However, U.S. officials told the Jordan Times that they are not ready to divulge any information before they put the ideas formally in front of the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Palestinian officials said that the U.S. has not offered any specific ideas so far. But sources close to the American government said that "a compromise" that reconciles between the Palestinian demand for a halt in Israeli settlement construction and the Israeli proposal to start the final status negotiations is being seriously studied by the White House and the State Department.

In essence, the ideas are not new and were discussed in the past during the ongoing Egyptian mediation effort to resume the stalled negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. The Palestinian leadership had earlier been reluctant to accept "pause" in settlement building and have asked for a total halt.

However, chief Palestinian

negotiator Saeb Erekat has been using the term "pause" instead of an "end of settlement activities" in an indication of change of heart by the Palestinian leadership. In statements he gave in the U.S., Dr. Erekat said that he has asked the Americans for "a pause in Israeli settlements" marking a Palestinian acceptance of the new terminology that has important political implications. Another Palestinian negotiator, however, told the Jordan Times from Gaza that the term is unacceptable and there will be no official Palestinian position before an official American initiative is put forward.

Linguistic differences have frequently arose during the peace talks and the terminology could prove crucial to the final status talks and the future of the Israeli settlements. A pause in settlement activities implies a break that allows the Israelis to resume at a later stage. It by no means legitimises settlement construction and does not entail a commitment to put an end to all settlement building.

The American idea is to postpone the verdict on settlement building, including the construction in Jabal Abu Ghneim, till the two sides reach an agreement over the issue as part of the final status talks.

The original Palestinian idea was to make the U.S. take a principled stand on settlement building and to prevent Israel from imposing new facts on the ground —

two conditions that both Israel and the U.S. rejected.

Describing the talks between special envoy Dennis Ross and Dr. Erekat, an American administration source said that the Palestinians "were pragmatic and flexible," but he did not elaborate.

During last week's talks, the Palestinians indicated that they are willing to consider the Israeli proposal for going into final status talks if the negotiations take place parallel to the implementation of the interim arrangements — mainly the Israeli troop redeployment from the rest of the West Bank.

The Palestinians do not want to go into final status negotiations while Israel maintains control of more than 60 per cent of the West Bank, and before the opening of the Gaza air and sea ports and the safe passage between the strip and the rest of the Palestinian areas.

But according to the Hebron protocols, redeployment would require further negotiations to determine the scope of the Israeli partial pull-out.

Thus, even if Israel agrees to Palestinian demands, Tel Aviv could still enter final status negotiations while maintaining control over most of the Palestinian territories.

The Hebron Protocols stipulate that the Palestinians should fulfil their security responsibilities in order for the peace negotiations to proceed.

Palestinian police detained over attack plans

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian security forces have detained several of their own police officers on Israeli accusations they planned to attack Jewish settlers, officials said Sunday.


"An investigative committee that formed two days ago is continuing its work to check the allegations against the members of the Palestinian police," the official Palestinian Wafa news agency said Sunday.

Some members have been detained to question them about these allegations," it said.

A spokesman for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat confirmed the report. Israel had accused Palestinian police of carrying out a shooting attack that damaged the car of a rabbi in the West Bank a week and a half ago and planning other attacks on settlers.

They demanded that Palestinian police arrest Deputy Commander Jihad Masouni, a senior official in the Nablus police they said had ordered the attack.


A spokesman for Mr. Arafat could not say if Mr. Masouni was under arrest nor how many police officers were detained.



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- Eilat Yotim

New PNA attorney-general plans to free or try detainees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The newly appointed Palestinian attorney-general pledged on Sunday to release or try prisoners held without charge in Palestinian jails.

"There are 185 prisoner files in front of me and I'm reviewing these files. Those who are not convicted will be released. Whoever should be tried will be sent to trial," Fayed Abu Rahma told reporters.

Mr. Abu Rahma replaced Khaled Kidra, who

resigned from the attorney-general post last month for health reasons. Mr. Abu Rahma, former head of the Gaza lawyers' association, took over the job on Saturday.

Human rights organisations welcomed the move.

"Obviously we would be very pleased if he was successful in ensuring that the rule of law is observed, that everybody has access to an attorney and that everybody has a fair trial," said Jessica Montell,

development director for the Israeli human rights group B'tselem.

"This is the first time I've heard a specific announcement to deal with the detainees and their rights," said Ms. Montell, who wrote a report on detainees.

Mr. Abu Rahma said the problem of detainees held without charge stemmed from misunderstandings over the role of Palestinian police.

"Every officer thinks of

himself as a representative of the state. He thinks he has the facility to arrest the people. Whoever got arrested according to these measures can appeal to the high justice court," Mr. Abu Rahma said.

"I promise our relations with the human rights organisations will be on the highest level, and we will respond to any inquiry or invitation of these organisations."

Saudi Arabia fires short-range missile; works at ending dispute with Yemen

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia fired its own surface-to-surface missile at the weekend to mark the inauguration of a new test site in the Gulf desert kingdom.

Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz launched the rocket with a range of 62 kilometres Saturday at the site at Al-Kharj, around 100 kilometres south of Riyadh.

"Our country possesses strategic missiles with a range of 35 to 60 kilometres, and it's not a secret to anyone," Prince Sultan told journalists.

The new site also contains the kingdom's first centre for the control and maintenance of ammunition.

Prince Sultan said the new centre meant Saudi Arabia no longer had to send its military equipment abroad for upkeep "which will save time and money."

The defence minister also inspected the air base at Al Kharj and laid the first stone of a new housing complex to be built there at a cost of \$2 billion.

The base will be the biggest in the kingdom once the complex is completed in five years, he said.

American, French and British airmen patrolling an air exclusion zone over southern Iraq moved to Al Kharj Base for greater

Saudi minister in Yemen for border dispute talks

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef arrived in the Yemeni capital Sanaa Saturday for the second visit this month to resolve a 61-year-old border dispute, Yemeni Radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted the minister as saying he was confident there would be an agreement on the issue.

"I am confident and optimistic that the objective... will be realised, God willing, in the interest of the two countries and in a manner satisfactory to all sides," he said.

Prince Nayef visited Yemen for talks early this month. Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh said during that visit a final settlement would be reached within weeks.

Yemen, one of the region's poorest countries, and oil-rich Saudi Arabia signed a memorandum of understanding in 1995 to resolve the dispute. A joint committee looking into border demarcation has met dozens of times since but its work has moved slowly, diplomats say.

Yemen has hinted in recent months it might resort to international arbitration. The two countries' armed forces had several minor clashes in a border area potentially rich in oil and gas before signing the memorandum.

security after a massive truck bombing of a base near the eastern city of Dhahran in June 1996 that left 19 U.S. airmen dead.

Prince Sultan also told journalists during the inauguration that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was welcome to visit Saudi Arabia any time he wanted, in a new sign of improving ties between the two countries.

Asked by journalists if Mr. Rafsanjani was expected to visit, Prince Sultan said: "The kingdom is open to all visitors and above all our brother, Mr. Rafsanjani, who is welcome any time."

Iran and Saudi Arabia have had strained relations since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Tehran.

They broke off ties from 1987 to 1991 after clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in Mecca in 1987 when 402 people died, mostly Iranians.

But the two countries have voiced increasing desire to improve their relations.

Sick Egyptian lawyer postpones Israeli spy trial

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo court adjourned Sunday the trial of an Israeli man charged with spying against Egypt after the defence lawyer suffered a minor heart attack.

A member of the legal team of Farid Deeb, lawyer for Israeli Druze textile engineer Azam Azam, said Mr. Deeb was in hospital and doctors would only let him leave after two days.

"My lawyer is sick and he will come... I feel that I will be acquitted because I am an innocent man," Azam told reporters after the judge asked him whether he wanted to wait for Mr. Deeb to recover and resume his defence.

State Security officers dragged Azam out of the prosecution cage as members of the local, international and Israeli media hurled at him questions. The trial was adjourned to Aug. 17.

Azam and Egyptian worker Emad Ismail are charged with making criminal arrangements to spy in Egypt for Israel's secret service Mossad. They have pleaded not guilty.

Two women — Zahra Yousef Greiss and Mona Ahmed Shawahna — are on trial in absentia for the same charges.

The case, which began on April 24, brought Egypt-Israeli ties to one of their lowest ebbs since their 1979 peace treaty.



Supporters of Hamas march Saturday in Hebron chanting anti-Israeli slogans in a show of strength in the West Bank town of Hebron. The march, which stayed away from the Israeli-controlled one-fifth of the town, was organised to commemorate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (AFP photo)

Intense speculation in Iran over Khatami's new cabinet

TEHRAN (AFP) — With two weeks to go before he takes office, Iran's moderate president-elect Mohammad Khatami is involved in intensive negotiations to pick a new cabinet that the conservative-dominated parliament will accept.

His final choice is eagerly awaited here as an indication of the direction the former culture minister will take after his shock victory in May presidential elections.

Mr. Khatami's ministers must be approved by one by one by the Iranian parliament, which recently elected his defeated rival in the elections, the conservative Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, as its speaker.

"I have had to meet two hundred times with MPs and representatives of various factions," Mr. Khatami said in a message broadcast on Iranian television Saturday night.

He has also met repeatedly with Iran's paramount leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who will swear Mr. Khatami in as president for a four-year term on Aug. 3. The cabinet will be put to the parliament the following day.

Sources close to the president-elect say he has already decided on his line-up, though they gave no clues as to who it contains.

Mr. Khatami, 54, said only that his cabinet would be "strong, innovative and modern," and that he wanted to be the president "for all Iranians."

However, he must satisfy the two political factions which backed him in his presidential campaign — the moderates, drawn from Iran's modernist technocrats, and the radical left-wingers who dominated the government in the decade after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

This could bring him into a head-on clash with the country's conservatives, who dominate parliament and other state institutions.

The rightwing conservatives, who favour a market economy, fear attempts at centralisation under the radicals and a tougher foreign policy.

The conservatives were at one time allied with the moderates to unseat the left-wingers from power, but their paths grew apart in disagreement over

mainly cultural issues. The moderates later turned to left wingers in common fear that the rightists sought to monopolise power.

Since his election, Mr. Khatami has tried to appease the conservatives, saying he plans to stick to the economic policies of outgoing President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and respect the fundamental values of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Insisting that ministers must be chosen on their merits and not their political loyalties, the conservatives have warned that the parliament will exert "its rights" over government appointments.

Some leading hard-liners have dropped hints that MPs will oppose the appointment of radical left-wingers as ministers.

Mr. Khatami denied he had come under pressure from conservatives in choosing his ministers. "Everyone must respect the choice of the majority," he said.

The press and political circles here are indulging in intense speculation over what his choice may be. Different names are

mooted every day for the various cabinet posts, but most bets are on Iran's U.N. Ambassador Kamal Kharazi as foreign minister; the former spokesman of the hostage-takers at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Mohammad Khomeini, as intelligence minister; and former mayor, Abdullah Nouri as interior minister.

And in a radical departure, Mr. Khatami may appoint several women to cabinet posts after winning strong support from the female vote in the May elections.

Mr. Khatami, who was culture minister from 1982 to 1992, made more personal freedom, the rule of law and greater openness a main theme of his presidential campaign.

Since then, he has been careful not to alienate the conservative clergy, stressing his intentions to stick to the fundamental revolutionary principles, although promising more political diversity and freedom within the bounds of the constitution.

But apprehension persists among hard-line and conservative circles.

Iraqi businessmen to visit Syria — papers

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi business delegation will visit Syria this week to discuss trade exchange under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations, Iraqi newspapers said Sunday.

"An industrial delegation headed by chairman of Iraqi Industries Union, Adnan Qudsi will leave Baghdad to the Syrian Arab

Republic next week," Al Qadisiya daily said.

"The team will hold talks with Syrian businessmen and industrialists on means of consolidating joint cooperation and activate trade exchange," the paper quoted Mr. Qudsi as saying.

He said the visit was upon invitation from the Damascus Chamber of Commerce. Iraq and Syria decided

last month to reopen their borders for trade, closed since the beginning of the 1980s when ties were cut because Damascus sided with Iran in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

In recent weeks the two Arab countries, ruled by rival factions of the Baath Party, have been exchanging economic teams.

Syrian businessmen want

to sell to Iraq goods under the oil pact which allows Iraq oil exports worth \$2 billion over six months to satisfy urgent needs of Iraqis hard-hit by U.N. sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The deal, which started in December last year, was renewed for another six months in June.

JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:40 Spiro
16:05 Neighbours
16:30 Deep Water Haven
17:00 Ocean Girl
17:15 Nature by Profession
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:00 The Giant Nile
20:30 Babylon 5
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 Law and Order
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
05:58 (Sunrise) Duha
12:39 Dhuhur
16:17 'Asr
19:19 Maghreb
20:42 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweithel, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Relative warm weather conditions
will prevail with winds northwesterly
moderate. In Aqaba, winds

will be northerly moderate to
active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 21/35

Aqaba 27/41

Deserts 19/38

Jordan Valley 25/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34, Aqaba 39 Humidity
readings: Amman 35 per cent,
Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Wissam Hazyin 748363

Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah 820425

Dr. Munther Al Qraini 779959

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Jghaitim 992991

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency
..... 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept. 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints
..... 787111

Telephone Information directory
(assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs..... 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 642816/6

Akileh Maternity 64244/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 623662

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 660126/37

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 62240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

08:05 Sanaa (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

15:25 Kuwait (RJ)

17:15 London (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam
(RJ)

19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:55 Milan (RJ)

22:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur
(RJ)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

04:30 Zagreb (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
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where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights can be
supplied on phone 08 (52700).

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

09:10 Kuwait (RJ)

10:45 Milan (RJ)

12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

13:15 Cairo (RJ)

13:25 London (RJ)

15:25 Frankfurt (RJ)

17:30 Zagreb (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:05 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

22:25 'Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

23:59 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights

06:15 Istanbul (TK)

08:45 Beirut (ME)

09:10 London (BA)

15:00 Bahrain (GF)

15:00 Khartoum (SD)

15:50 Vienna (OS)

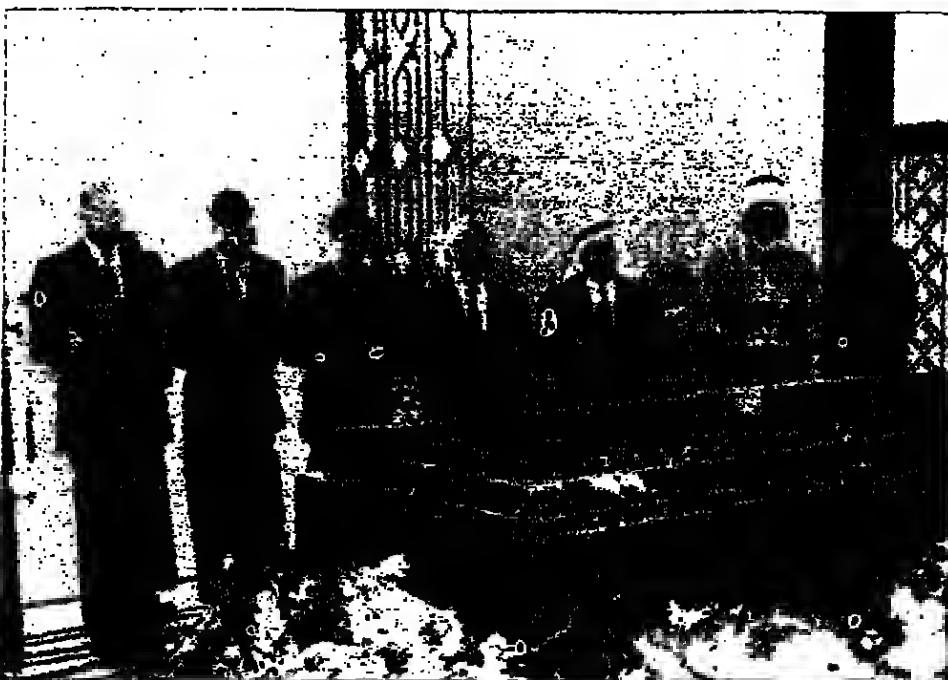
17:50 Doha (QR)

20:15 Tel Aviv (LY)

21:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:15 Cairo (MS)



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visits the tomb of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and lays a wreath of flowers thereupon. Also visiting the tomb were HRH Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, senior Royal Court officials, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and senior civil and military officials. King Abdullah was assassinated on July 20, 1951 at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem after performing prayers there (Petra photo)

USAID grant to provide jobs for residents of Wadi Rayyan

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Rania Al Abdullah and Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan Lewis Lucke yesterday signed an agreement providing \$106,000 to Jordan River for Development Projects (JRDP), a U.S. embassy statement said.

The funds will be used to establish a furniture facility in Wadi Rayyan, providing

jobs for the area's residents in the Jordan Valley.

This furniture project, the first of its kind in Jordan, will use locally grown bamboo and banana leaves to produce wicker furniture to be marketed in JRDP showrooms in Jordan, the statement said.

The furniture will be exported to selected countries in the region. The project is being funded under

the auspices of the USAID Private Sector Services Project (PSSP), an \$8 million programme aimed at assisting and fostering the development and growth of private enterprise by upgrading business services through improved accounting, industrial management, computers and software service, and marketing.

Memorial unveiled at Qasr Amra

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji and Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Michael Stiglbauer unveiled a memorial tablet at the entrance of the Umayyad Desert Castle Qasr Amra yesterday, an Embassy of Austria statement said.

The ceremony marks the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Umayyad Desert Castles by Austrian explorer Alois Musil, according to the statement.

The project was initiated by the Austrian Oriental Society — Hammer-Purgstall, a semi-official institute for cultural and scientific cooperation with Islamic countries.

A delegation from this society attended the ceremony, the statement said.

The Austrian explorer, Alois Musil, is considered one of the most renowned Austrian scholars to have visited the Arab World during the turn of the century.

Musil studied Oriental languages as well as the history and culture of the Arab World in Austria and then continued his studies in Jerusalem and Beirut, the statement said.

Subsequent to several expeditions to Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq and northern Hijaz, he became the Austrian government's Middle East expert.

During World War I, he visited the region as a personal representative of the Austrian Emperor, according to the statement.

In 1897, Musil undertook an expedition to Transjordan in the course of which he discovered the Umayyad Desert Castles such as Qasr Amra and Qasr Al Kharana.

The results of his explorations were then published in books and articles by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.

The most important of these publications is a scholarly description of Qasr Amra, containing coloured reproductions of the famous mural paintings from the Umayyad period for which this monument is famous.

Musil was accepted as a member of the bedouin tribes in Transjordan who gave him the name Sheikh Musa Al-Ruwaili for his attachment to the Ruwailah Tribe and its leader Nuri Al Shaalan, the statement said.

Due to his political role during the World War I among the bedouins in Transjordan and northern Hijaz, some historians have nicknamed Musil "the Austrian Lawrence" as he was the political opponent of Colonel Lawrence among the Arabs, the statement concluded.

YWCA camp sessions announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is holding a summer camp for children between the ages of eight and fourteen in three separate sessions, a YWCA statement said Sunday.

The Scouts Camp, belonging to the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) is on the way to the airport.

This Summer Camp Project aims at the mental and physical development of children, as well as training in leadership and responsibility-sharing, both at home and in their respective communities, the statement said.

The project also encourages cooperation

and teaches teamwork, it added.

The programme includes athletic, cultural and educational activities including environmental protection.

The second session will end July 21st at which time a special evening of drama and singing activities will be presented by the campers.

The third session for children ages 8-11 will start July 23rd, the statement said.

The camp is run by a leader and staff who are specialists in camping.

It is supervised by a special YWCA committee, the statement concluded.

What's Going On

FILM

* "Le Ruffian" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

* "Karak Castle Excavations by Jack Lee at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846-117) at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings and ceramics sculptures by Arab artists at the Orient Gallery, Shmeisani (Tel. 681303) until July 31.

* Paintings by Hanan Al Bourini at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 24.

* Display of Bani Hamida hand-made

products at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, until July 31 (Tel. 65869677).

* Works by Iraqi artists Ali Al Najjar and Zia Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until July 23.

* Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zaghari at the Modern Educational School, Khaldi, until July 31.

* Photography exhibition by Jan Kasay, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.

* Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

* Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition showing works of 60 Arab artists at Darat Al Fann, Jabal Weibdeh until July 24.

'Most opposition groups, professional associations will follow elections boycott'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Yesterday's official announcement that four political parties will follow the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott the 1997 elections is just the tip of the iceberg, and most opposition groups and professional associations will follow suit, a Muslim Brotherhood leader commented.

"The people are fed up, they are tired; the economic and political situation is making every day life harder and harder for the average citizen," Muslim Brotherhood Shura Council and Executive Committee member Aymad Abu Dia told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) — scheduled to take a final decision as to whether to participate in the upcoming general elections on Thursday — "will definitely boycott the elections," he asserted.

According to Mr. Abu Dia, "they (the IAF) have not yet decided because they have their own decision-making procedures, but, at the end of the day, since not less than 70 per cent of IAF members come from the Muslim Brotherhood, we are sure that the front will boycott."

"The other opposition parties will follow," he added.

The parties which announced their decision to boycott the elections yesterday were the Jordanian People's Democratic Party

(Hashd), the Jordan Arab Constitutional Front, the National Action Front and Al Ansar.

In an eight-page document, these small-size parties cited the 1993 peace treaty with Israel and government economic policies as the main impetus for their step.

However, "there are hundreds of reasons, and the first is that there is no democracy," Hashd Secretary General Salem Nahihas asserted.

Since the 1991 Madrid conference, Jordan's foreign policy has been characterised by the "total acceptance of U.S.-Israeli plans for the region," the four parties said in the statement, adding that "the Wadi Arah (accord) has produced sour fruit which people were forced to swallow against their interests, with no consideration for the Palestinian cause and its national dimension."

"Ninety per cent of the people do not own more than five per cent of the country's products, while 95 per cent (of all products) is owned by businessmen, parasite capitalists, and brokers," the statement said.

Voicing their opposition to last summer's list of state subsidies on bread, which provoked a 200 per cent hike in bread prices, the statement hashed the government for "destroying and oppressing the people with 76 different taxes."

Accusing previous governments of "forging public opinion under the banner of a formal democracy"

and "using parliamentary majority as a façade... for following their self-interests," the parties lamented a lack of "freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of association."

They strongly criticised mid-May amendments to the Press and Publications Law, that, targeting mainly the yellow press and increasing the number of issues forbidden to report, raised the capital requirements for newspaper and magazines and imposed higher sanctions for violations of the law.

"They (the government) have tightened the rope around the media in order to cause another tear in the social fabric," the four parties' statement read.

Declaring their "highest esteem for the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott the elections, which reflects the will of the biggest segments of society," the parties said they followed "out of a sense of national responsibility," as they "cannot convince the people that their problems can be solved in Parliament."

"In all democracies, Parliament plays a major role in expressing the wishes and voicing the needs of the people, but here governments used the one-person, one-vote system to elect a fake parliament, which served as mere decoration," Mr. Abu Dia said.

"The Muslim Brotherhood has repeatedly warned that the 1993

election law," which introduced the one-person, one-vote system shortly before the election of the twelfth Parliament, "is a very dangerous law for the future of this country," he added.

The Islamists have opposed the one-person, one-vote formula on the grounds that it encourages tribalism and prevents opposition representation.

Should the main opposition parties, grouped in the Higher Committee for the Opposition Parties, reach a collective decision in favour of a general boycott of this autumn's elections, Jordan's thirteenth Parliament might include only tribal and pro-government candidates.

"I do not see how there could be real democracy without the Islamists and opposition parties... Parliament would be only a decoration and the situation will deteriorate more and more," Mr. Abu Dia said.

"We would reach an explosive point and nobody can tell what will happen," he admonished.

"When people are fed up they might do anything," he said. "I think neither the Muslim Brotherhood nor any other organisation would encourage it (an explosion)."

"But the people themselves will go to the streets, and it will be difficult to stop them," Mr. Abu Dia concluded.

University students stage protest

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — University of Jordan students staged an on-campus demonstration and burned the Israeli flag to condemn anti-Islamic posters, affixed by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron, earlier this month.

The participants also protested the verdict, handed down Saturday against the 26-year old soldier, Ahmad Dakamseh, who was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour for the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls on March 13.

Photographers were not permitted to enter the campus, which led participants to move outside the campus where plainclothes and anti-riot police, with sticks and tear gas canisters, surrounded them and halted activity.

During the procession, students affiliated with Islamic groups, carried both Jordanian and black flags and chanted slogans.

Some women raised copies of the Holy Koran during the procession.

The procession ended peacefully after a group of students set a torn Israeli flag ablaze. Police did not interfere to prevent them from doing so.

"This procession expresses our wrath over Jewish acts against Muslims and Christians," stated Head of



University of Jordan students stage demonstration in protest of recent anti-Islamic posters in Hebron as well as normalisation of ties with Israel (Reuters photo)

the University of Jordan Students Union Mahmoud Saqour.

"This demonstration also reflects our sympathy and support Ahmad Dakamseh," Mr. Saqour told the Jordan Times following the

procession. "His act is a reflection of public opinion."

"We want to tell the world that there are thousands of Dakamsehs within the Jordanian people," he added.

"We also want to express our rejection of both the (Middle East) peace process and the normalisation of ties with Israel which the government is currently undertaking," Mr. Saqour said.

Students affiliated with Islamic political groups have won elections in the University of Jordan and have maintained their edge over other groups for the past several years.

Breast cancer awareness week focuses on early detection

By Nadia Makhliis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Increasing awareness of the scientific and medical aspects of certain types of cancer and creating a change in societal attitudes and trends are some of the main goals of Al Amal's Women's Cancer Awareness Week.

Encouraging self-examination for signs of the disease and regular physical check-ups are also topics slated for discussion during specialised seminars.

The week will include radio and television interviews with specialists as well as that of a woman who has recovered from the disease. Director of Public and International Relations at Al Amal Medical Centre Dina Ra'ad explained.

Lectures by specialists will also figure highly, she added.

"Our aim is to spread

awareness on a national level," Ms. Ra'ad explained. "We will be giving lectures in Irbid as well as Amman."

The Irbid lectures are being held in conjunction with the Rosary Sisters Hospital and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), she explained, and the lectures will be held at the Rosary Hospital.

These lectures will concentrate on different types of breast cancer as well as ways of detecting and treating them. Ms. Ra'ad stated.

A lecture covering breast cancer and its early detection will be delivered by Dr. Rami Yaghan, and breast cancer treatment will be covered by Dr. Mohammed Khamash, both consultant surgeons at Al Amal Cancer Centre. Ms. Ra'ad said.

The treatment of breast cancer will be detailed by surgeon, specialist and professor at the College of

Medicine of the University of Jordan Dr. Ghassan Farah's lecture, she added.

An educational film detailing methods of self-examination will be shown with Cancer Specialist Rula Batoush inserting commentary, according to Ms. Ra'ad.

Maha Kala'gi will illustrate her own experience with the illness and the methods she used for its elimination, in a lecture entitled "uncommon people, one common goal," she stated.

Breast cancer is still regarded as one of the most terrifying diseases to affect women around the globe, specialists at Al Amal Centre said.

On a national level, 500 new cases are annually diagnosed in the Kingdom, they affirmed.

The American National Cancer Institute (ANCI) estimates that one out of every eight women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime.

Research has not yet found any direct cause for the disease and most of the known risk factors are components over which women have little control, according to ANCI studies.

The Rotary Club of Amman often initiates Breast Cancer Awareness Projects (BCAP) whose aim is to encourage early detection.

Al Amal Cancer Centre is a charitable society, and is treated as a government hospital, according to Executive President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib.

The Ministry of Health provides the hospital with equipment and other items through public tenders, he added.

The centre has worked out an executive programme which includes a campaign to raise funds to cover the cost of cancer treatment. Dr. Khatib asserted.

He confirmed that 3,000-4,000 cases of cancer are diagnosed in the Kingdom annually.

Al Amal Centre, serving the region, maintains close contact with international research centres, according to Deputy Director for Planning and Administration of Al Amal Centre Lina Latouf.

The centre has been offering comprehensive health care programmes aimed at providing affordable cancer treatment and surgery, she added.

The centre is currently accepting memberships for an advanced health care programme in order to minister to people who develop cancer as well as help indigent persons who cannot independently afford the programme.

Ms. Latouf explained. "It takes years for tissues to turn cancerous, and simple early detection can help save a life," Ms. Ra'ad concluded.

Bosnian Serb president kicked out of ruling party

BELGRADE (AFP) — Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic has been thrown out of ruling Serb Democratic Party (SDS) by its hardline leadership, with whom she has been locked in a bitter power struggle, the SRNA agency announced Sunday.

Mrs. Plavsic's expulsion was voted by 66 members of the party's 84-strong Leadership Committee, which met overnight in Pale, the administrative centre of the Republika Srpska (RS), the Bosnian Serb entity.

The committee "reiterated its call for Mrs. Plavsic to resign from her post as president of the RS and to transfer her powers to Vice-President Dragoljub Mirjanic," a statement said.

"The Leadership Committee has looked at Mrs. Plavsic's position concerning the policy and programme of the party," the statement added.

"Sixty-six of the 84 members of the Leadership Committee were present at the meeting. The 66 voted unanimously for the expulsion of Mrs. Plavsic from the SDS."

Mrs. Plavsic has clashed with Serb hardliners since trying to sack the Bosnian Serb interior minister earlier this month whom she

accused of corruption.

Her opponents are also angered by her apparent willingness to implement the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords which ended Bosnia's 43-month war and thwarted the Bosnian Serb goal of dividing the state into ethnically pure areas.

Mrs. Plavsic said in an interview to be published in the German magazine Der Spiegel Monday that she plans to have former Serb leader Radovan Karadzic arrested on charges of embezzlement. She will not however hand him over to the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal, she said.

The president of the Serb-

run part of Bosnia told the magazine that "Karadzic and his friends" were responsible for massive corruption and profiteering throughout the 1992-95 Bosnian War.

Mrs. Plavsic said her one-time political ally was providing "political protection" to "dozens of companies" who do not declare duties on goods coming in from neighbouring countries principally Serbia.

"His activities have grown since I became president and all this is to the detriment of our famished population," she said.

Sri Lanka opposition MP killed

COLOMBO (R) — A parliamentary deputy of Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party (UNP) and five others were killed in an attack by gunmen near eastern Trincomalee town Sunday, police said.

They said UNP member of parliament Mohamud Moharroof's vehicle was attacked on a stretch of road between Trincomalee and the nearby beach resort of Nilaveli at about 10.30 a.m. (0430 GMT).

The dead included Moharroof's driver, his bodyguard, a colleague, a principal of a local Muslim school and the driver's four-year-old son, police said.

Police blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels for the killing, but declined to attribute a motive to the attack.

"We are still making inquiries," a police official

said.

The LTTE are fighting a 13-year-old war for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war. The LTTE puts the toll higher.

UNP sources in the capital Colombo confirmed Moharroof had died in the attack, but they, too, stopped short of speculating why the lawmaker was killed.

Police said Moharroof was travelling in the Muslim-dominated area around Trincomalee, visiting villages where LTTE rebels had kidnapped fishermen in recent weeks.

They said the lawmaker had met with local police to discuss villagers' safety just before he was killed.

Moharroof, 58, was a deputy minister in the UNP

government which lost power to the ruling People's Alliance in 1994.

He was the second parliamentary deputy to be killed this month in Trincomalee, 260 kilometres east of Colombo.

Arunasalam Thangathurai, Trincomalee parliamentary deputy for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), died in a grenade attack on July 5.

Thangathurai, who was killed while getting into his vehicle after inaugurating a new school building, was the eighth TULF leader to die in a series of political assassinations in as many years.

Four others, including the school principal, were also killed and 15 were wounded in the July 5 attack.

Police blamed the LTTE for Thangathurai's killing, but nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. police rescue 62 deaf-mute Mexicans from virtual slavery

NEW YORK (AFP) — Police here discovered two apartments where 62 deaf-mute undocumented Mexican migrants were living, forced to work against their will in virtual slavery to pay off their smugglers.

Police found the Mexicans — among them 10 children between the ages of four months and seven years — living in two small apartments divided into cubicles. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told reporters Saturday.

"It appears as if there was one man and possibly more who were holding a number of (subjects) in bondage and virtual slavery after bringing them over from Mexico," Mr. Giuliani said.

"He was... taking advantage of people with disabilities," the mayor said.

The adults, 30 women and 22 men, seem to have been physically abused, Mr. Giuliani said.

Police were questioning at least one suspect, but were having difficulties communicating with the migrants, said Mary Debourbon at the New York district attorney's office.

Few of the adults can communicate in Spanish and very few of them understand sign language, Ms. Debourbon said.

The apartment was located in the Hispanic Jackson Heights neighbourhood in New York.

Forty-four of the people were living in an apartment designed for seven or eight people, and 18 more were living in another small nearby apartment, Mr. Giuliani said.

The apartment rooms were filled with bunkbeds, mattresses and sleeping bags were the migrants slept.

The adults had apparently been forced to work for long hours as trinket vendors to pay off their smugglers, authorities said.

Four of the adult migrants somehow escaped from the apartments before sunrise Saturday and made it to the nearest police station, where they communicated their stories with difficulty to the officers on duty.

A woman in the group, according to police, produced a long letter written in Spanish that detailed the story of how the group was smuggled across the United States-Mexico border, given work as peddlers, then forced to turn their earnings over to the smugglers.

A Spanish-speaking neighbour said the deaf migrants told her they were friends from a school for the deaf in Mexico, according to news reports.

This is the first incidence in New York of undocumented migrants who work as indentured servants and are also deaf-mutes, Ms. Debourbon said.



A nurse feeds malnourished children in an orphanage in Wonsan, Kangwon province in hunger-stricken North Korea. Floods that devastated much of the North's farmland and industrial bases in 1995 and 1996 have worsened already severe food shortages (Reuters photo)

Former envoy leads U.S. delegation into N. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — A U.S. delegation led by former U.S. ambassador to Seoul James Laney arrived in Pyongyang Sunday to discuss peace on the Korean Peninsula, reports said.

Accompanied by former Senator Sam Nunn, Mr. Laney's entourage flew into the famine-stricken Communist nation on a military plane from a U.S. base in Japan, Yonhap News Agency said.

The trip is "strictly" on a personal level, although Mr. Laney and Mr. Nunn will stress the importance of key preliminary peace talks set for New York on Aug. 5, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official told Yonhap.

Mr. Laney and Mr. Nunn will meet top Pyongyang

officials, but they will not negotiate on behalf of the U.S. government, Yonhap said. Mr. Laney's entourage will stop in Seoul after their three-day stay.

It was not known immediately whether the U.S. delegation would see the North's reclusive leader Kim Jong-il, who has yet to formally assume top posts held by his father who died three years ago.

Tension increased between the two Koreas with a border clash last Wednesday, in which several North Korean soldiers were injured. The incident sparked fears of a backlash against a U.S. drive to get Pyongyang back to the negotiating table.

On Saturday, Pyongyang's

official newspaper Rodong Shinmun slammed the 23-minute firefight in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) as "a disguised hostile act for the provocation of a war."

"We want peace. But we have no intention to pardon even the provokers," the newspaper said, warning the North would take a "self-defensive, retaliatory strike."

The warning, carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Seoul, followed a letter in which Mr. Kim Jong-il promised to improve ties with Washington and Japan.

In the letter dated July 13 and carried by the Japanese media, Mr. Kim also said it was Pyongyang's "unchanged stance" to implement

commitments made in the 1994 agreement with Washington.

Under the 1994 accord, Pyongyang and Washington are engaged in rapprochement talks. Washington has promised economic assistance in return for Pyongyang's agreement to freeze its weapons-grade nuclear programme.

Mr. Kim admitted in his letter that his country was faced with "temporary obstacles" partly due to "years of natural disasters nationwide." Japan's Jiji Press said.

North Korea, hit by acute food shortages after two years of severe flooding, is seeking to improve ties with Washington and Tokyo in a move to get foreign aid.

Berisha, Socialists at impasse on new Albania government

TIRANA (R) — Formation of a new government in Albania remained blocked Sunday because of a stand-off in which President Sali Berisha is withholding a decree that would convene parliament and the new Socialist majority is refusing to meet him.

Mr. Berisha, whose Democratic Party suffered a resounding defeat in parliamentary elections on June 29, has promised to resign once he has "fulfilled his constitutional obligations," but so far he has shown no sign of wishing to step down quickly.

He met leaders of his Democrats and smaller parties Saturday to discuss when parliament should meet and who should be premier, but Socialist leaders said he no longer had the right to do so.

"We are not going to meet President Sali Berisha because his last act should be convening the parliament," Socialist Party Organising Secretary Namik Dokle told

Reuters.

"It is not up to him to launch talks on the new government and it is absurd to ask the other parties which won less than two per cent (of the vote) about the next prime minister."

Mr. Dokle said that, in the Socialists' view, Mr. Berisha was just one of the 155 deputies in parliament.

Mr. Berisha's Socialist Party opponents and their coalition allies won a total of 117 seats, to the Democrats' 27.

The president has indicated that he would prefer the interim prime minister, Bashkim Fino, to stay on as head of government rather than Socialist leader Fatos Nano, the party's preferred candidate.

Mr. Nano threatened that, if Mr. Berisha refused to convene parliament, the assembly would meet without waiting for a presidential decree.

"He should observe the promise he made, namely to resign once the parliament

is convened," Mr. Nano told the daily newspaper Gazeta Shqiptare.

He was quoted as saying that the Democratic Party's election defeat meant they no longer had any right to discuss the next government.

"We want to remind them we won two thirds of parliament and it's up to us to decide the future of the country...Berisha is a politician of the past, an old political figure, responsible for the destruction of the state," he added.

Mr. Berisha's government resigned in March at the height of unrest which followed the collapse of get-rich-quick pyramid investment schemes. Much of the country is still ruled by armed gangs.

Diplomats who have urged a new government to get to work say they are concerned that there may be no prime minister to attend a donors' meeting in Rome at the end of July to discuss aid for the shattered country.

Malaysian influence in Pacific is increasing — Australian report

CANBERRA (R) — Malaysian influence over South Pacific countries is increasing as its timber firms help prop up some regional rulers, while other states look to Kuala Lumpur to counter Australian dominance, a secret Australian government report warns.

The 93-page briefing for Treasurer Peter Costello said Malaysian logging interests helped Solomon Islands leader Solomon Mamaloni remain a political force and had also supported Papua New Guinea leaders.

Fiji had sought closer ties with Malaysia in a bid to counter Australia's dominance of the South Pacific, said the document prepared by treasury officials with the help of the Foreign Affairs Department and security agencies.

It was drafted for Mr. Costello as a briefing for the summit of economic ministers from the 16-member South Pacific Forum in the tropical resort town of Cairns earlier this month.

Publication by Reuters of some details of the briefing — which also outlined embarrassing personal habits of Mr. Costello's 15 guests — has sparked a political and diplomatic row for Australia's Liberal-National government.

The paper says the Solomon Islands faced economic crisis, but Mr. Mamaloni was an obstacle to much-needed economic re-

forms. It said his political power was shored up by the backing of unnamed Malaysian logging companies.

"Mamaloni's... dealings with loggers and others enable him to continue to dominate Solomon Islands politics," it says.

The paper says the Solomon Islands government is behind on payments to local banks and businesses and foreign creditors.

It warns logging revenues, which have propped up government finances, will dry up around 2005 because of exploitation.

The briefing also says Papua New Guinea's former prime minister, Sir Julius Chan — ousted in last month's national election — had benefited from dealings with Malaysian logging companies.

It warns Papua New Guinea politicians' personal interests will hamper efforts to combat abuses in the forestry sector.

"The government continues to drag its feet on reforming large scale abuses in sectors such as forestry because of politicians' personal interests," the briefing says.

Papua New Guinea's parliament is due to choose a new premier Tuesday and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chris Haiveta — who the report says was involved in Sir Julius' logging dealings — is a strong contender.

'Mr. Clean' leads race for S. Korea ruling party presidential candidate

SEOUL (AFP) — Former judge Lee Hoi-Chang, running under a "Mr. Clean" banner, is leading contender in the six-man battle Monday to be the South Korean ruling party's presidential election candidate.

The New Korea Party (NKP) candidate for the December poll will be decided by 12,395 delegates at a convention in Seoul's Olympic Gymnasium.

The winner will face veteran opposition politician Kim Dae-Jung, 73, of the National Congress for New Politics party (NCNP) and third-runner, Kim Jong-Pil, 71, of the Conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats.

Mr. Lee's "Mr. Clean" reputation in an administration rocked by repeated corruption scandals and the jailing of the president's own son for graft, helped him garner 36 per cent of support among NKP delegates, final opinion polls showed Sunday.

"I am the only candidate

who can introduce a clean political atmosphere," the former Supreme Court judge, 62, said in a speech Sunday.

He also promised to lift the ruling party out of a morass of financial scandals and GKI province which surrounds the crucial Seoul electorate, had 16 per cent, according to the polls.

Mr. Rhee, at 52 the youngest contender, has leaned heavily on the image of an untainted lawyer-turned politician. He is also popular with the younger generation of delegates.

But the younger candidate's chances were hit at the weekend when some of President Kim Young-Sam's loyalists favoured Lee Hoi-Chang.

Mr. Lee has earned the nickname "Bamboo Pole" for his uncompromising attitude. But he was sacked as prime minister in 1994 for standing up to the president on matters of principle.

The judge made a political comeback in 1996 and took

the helm of the ruling party this year in a move orchestrated by the president to head off an internal party crisis.

Mr. Lee is widely seen as the strongest presidential hopeful who could easily beat the two opposition "Kims" in the December election.

But with no single NKP candidate expected to secure a majority of votes Monday, observers did not rule out the possibility of a last-minute rebellion by a party faction controlled by the president.

If no-one secures 50 per cent of votes Monday, the winner will be decided in a second round of voting between the top two contenders.

The six NKP contenders also include former Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung, senior lawmaker Kim Deog-Ryong, Conservative faction leader Lee Han-Dong and former Seoul Mayor Choe Byung-Yul.

The beleaguered president

has so far been neutral, leaving the race open. Mr. Kim Young Sam took office in 1993 with the help of his jailed predecessor, Roh Tae-Woo and is barred from running for a second term.

The election contest has heated up since the arrest of the president's son and the involvement of party members in the loans-for-kickbacks scandal prompted by the collapse of the Hanbo conglomerate.

The scandal revealed high-level corruption, resulting in the arrest of 11 prominent figures including several of Mr. Kim's associates.

The presidential election race kicked off in early June when Mr. Kim Dae-Jung was nominated as the candidate of the NCNP for his fourth presidential bid.

The NCNP chief has urged the smaller right-wing ULD to back his candidacy in a joint fight against the ruling party, but ULD leader Kim Jong-Pil has so far shown no real interest in joining forces.

Russian-U.S. crew carry out repairs on Mir

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian-American crew carried out repairs Sunday to make the stricken space station Mir more stable and were then given the rest of the day off.

Officials at Mission Control near Moscow told Interfax News Agency the three-man crew had fixed another of the gyrodine devices which keep Mir's solar panels lined up on the sun and are vital for steady orientation.

Efforts to repair one more gyrodine had failed but eight of the station's 12 gyrodines were now working, they said.

Despite this success, Russian space officials were expected to announce Monday that more important and risky repairs to fix the power supply, damaged in a collision on June 25, will be carried out by a crew due to arrive on Mir on Aug. 7.

"I think it is better for us not to propose to this crew

that they go out into open space as there is only a little time until the next expedition and the lads are tired," Mission Director Vladimir Solovoyov said Saturday.

"They have been through a lot, something which has a serious effect on a person's psychology," he said in a television interview.

Interfax said the crew had a video link-up with Mission Control Sunday morning and added: "Mission Control declared July 20 a rest day on the station."

Crew Commander Vasily Tsibilyev, flight engineer Alexander Lazutkin and NASA physicist Michael Foale have been dogged by a jinx-like series of problems.

About half of Mir's power was lost during the collision during a manual docking manoeuvre on June 25 which punctured a module attached to the 11-year-old space station. Mir has been limping through space ever since.

Repairing the power supply will require entering the airless module and working in spacesuits for several hours. If the operation goes wrong, Russian space officials say the crew doing the repairs may have to abandon ship.

Problems have continued since the collision. An unidentified liquid leaked into space, tests showed Mr. Tsibilyev had an irregular heartbeat and one of the crew caused a computer to crash last Thursday by pulling out a wrong cable.

The computer crash, which plunged the sprawling craft into darkness and left it spinning in space, was fixed Friday.

Crew Commander Tsibilyev, 43, was due Sunday to have more medical tests. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

U.S. officials at Mission Control said Mr. Foale hoped to use Sunday to continue experiments which

have been interrupted on the impact of space flight on the internal clock of beetles.

Mr. Tsibilyev and Mr. Lazutkin, 39, are scheduled to return to Earth on Aug. 26, with Mr. Foale, who is 40, returning aboard a U.S. shuttle in September.

Russian cosmonauts Pavel Vinogradov and Anatoly Solovoyov are in training outside Moscow at Zvyozdny Gorodok to undertake the repair work and are due to blast off for Mir on Aug. 5.

The problems on Mir, which was originally expected to have a useful lifespan of about five years, have raised doubts about its future and that of Russian cooperation in space with the United States and other nations.

Asked if the United States would end its participation in the Mir project, U.S. President Bill Clinton said last Thursday that it was too soon for him to draw a conclusion.



A woman, bent double from pain, is being held by a nurse in a hospital setting. The woman is in extreme distress, and the nurse is supporting her.

Vietnam goes to

Communist rule. The country is now under the control of the Communist Party, and the government is working to improve the lives of its citizens.

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An elderly woman, bent double from a lifetime of work in the paddy fields, casts her vote in a village on the outskirts of Hanoi Sunday. Vietnam held elections for an enlarged 450-seat National Assembly, but little has been left to chance as all 663 candidates have been officially approved (Reuter photo)

Vietnam goes to the polls in upset-free elections

HANOI (R) — Vietnam held elections Sunday for an enlarged 450-seat National Assembly, but little was being left to chance as the country's 40-million voters went to the polls.

Across Hanoi residents were woken to the sound of stirring music from the city-wide megaphone network and messages instructing people on how to fulfil their civic duties.

Outside the city's 1,540 polling stations, middle-aged women in traditional silk dress encouraged passers-by to participate in the official atmosphere of festivity.

Little was being left to chance in what amounted to elections for a parliament with limited powers and no opposition.

All 663 candidates were officially approved. Most

are members of the ruling Communist Party, and 202 are women — complying accurately with state directives aimed at ensuring they occupy around 30 per cent of parliamentary seats.

Nonetheless, Vietnam's Communist Party chief, Do Muoi, told reporters at an early morning voting session that democracy was growing in Vietnam every day. He also brushed aside local newspaper claims of official cheating.

"We have conducted so far nine assembly elections, and no cheating has been noticed," he said, adding: "And the candidates do not have to spend money to buy votes."

The total budget for Sunday's nationwide elections and campaigning was about \$17,000, amounting to a little over \$25 per candidate.

Vietnam's National Assembly elections are held every five years, and are touted as a mechanism aimed at allowing ordinary people a say in the selection of grass-roots parliamentary representatives chosen by the state.

The assembly meets twice each year, for a month, to discuss government legislation and vote on nominees for cabinet and top state positions.

It has traditionally been seen as compliant. But in an unusually direct editorial Sunday a Ho Chi Minh City news journal said changing times in Vietnam required a more mature legislature, and one more in touch with popular opinion.

"As it integrates into the global community, Vietnam cannot feel satisfied with where it is now," the Tuoi

Tre newspaper said.

"The opinions of (National Assembly deputies) could be more powerful if new ideas are expressed, and if these are a result of refined wisdom and the initiatives of many people."

The new assembly is scheduled to meet for the first time in September when it will vote on the appointment of successors to President Le Duc Anh, 76, and Prime Minister Do Muoi, 74, and approve a new cabinet.

Despite media warnings of the need for vigilance against "bad elements" who might try to upset the elections, police in Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City said no incidents had been reported during morning voting.

Election officials said results were expected Tuesday or Wednesday.

Senior Beijing official to visit Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — A high-ranking Chinese official is scheduled to visit here next month on a trip Taiwan authorities hope will help improve ties between Taipei and Beijing, a report said Sunday.

Liu Gangqi, deputy secretary general of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), is to attend an academic seminar slated for Aug. 4-5 in Taipei, the Economic Daily News said.

ARATS is a body set up by Beijing to handle civil contacts between Taiwan and China in the absence of official links.

The seminar on China's modernisation is sponsored

by a foundation led by Wang Sheng, a senior advisor to President Lee Teng-Hui.

Officials said exchanges of high-level visits should help resume the dialogue which was unilaterally suspended by Beijing following Mr. Lee's landmark visit to the United States in mid-1995, the paper said.

The U.S. trip infuriated Beijing which accused Mr. Lee of pushing the island further away from the mainland.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lee himself met with former U.S. presidential candidate Bob Dole Sunday and turned down the "one country, two systems" formula China has

proposed for unification with island, the Presidential Office said.

"The Republic of China (Taiwan) is a sovereign state engendered by freedom and democracy," Mr. Lee said when meeting with Mr. Dole.

Hong Kong returned to China under the "one country, two systems" design on July 1 this year, ending 156 years of British rule.

Beijing now wants the Nationalist island to reunite with the mainland under the same system. China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the Nationalists fled to the island after a civil war in 1949.

Both Taipei and Beijing have called for reunification but on different terms.

Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Dole for his long-standing support for Taiwan. In the U.S. Senate, Mr. Dole has argued Taipei should join the United Nations.

Taiwan has been shut out of the U.N. since it awarded the China seat to Beijing in 1971.

Mr. Dole, the former majority leader of the U.S. Senate and the 1996 Republican presidential candidate, arrived in Taiwan Saturday for a five-day visit.

Mr. Dole is to make a speech Monday on U.S. relations with Asia in the next century.

Fighting flares in wake of Cambodian talks

PHNOM PENH (R) — Fighting flared in northern Cambodia Sunday and civilians were preparing to flee to neighbouring Thailand a day after government leader Hun Sen rejected regional efforts to mediate in Cambodia's crisis.

Ousted Prince Norodom Ranariddh arrived in Singapore for talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong after warning that Mr. Hun Sen's rejection of an Association South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) mediation attempt would bring about isolation, an end to democracy and a return to war.

A Thai army officer based in northeastern Thailand near the border with Cambodia said preparations were being made to receive an influx of refugees from Cambodia if fighting there worsened.

"We heard fighting today but we don't yet have a report about which factions are involved," the officer told Reuters.

The battle was in the area of Samrong town which had been held by royalist forces loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh.

Government officials under Mr. Hun Sen said in Phnom Penh Saturday that Mr. Hun Sen's forces had taken part of the town and

talks with royalist commanders were underway.

The Thai officer said Cambodian civilians were preparing to seek refuge in Thailand and would be allowed to cross the border if the situation became serious.

"There are a number of Cambodian people near the border crossing point but I can't estimate how many," the officer said. "For the time being they're safe, the fighting is deep inside Cambodia near Samrong."

Samrong is 320 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh and 30 kilometres from the Thai border.

Mr. Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh on July 6 after two days of battles in the capital. Their forces in northern Cambodia began fighting soon after and royalist troops were quickly pushed back towards Samrong.

On Saturday Mr. Hun Sen dismissed a push by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to open talks on Cambodia's latest strife. A high-level ASEAN team left Phnom Penh saying it would cease its efforts.

Cambodia was in line to have joined ASEAN at the group's annual meetings in Kuala Lumpur this week. But Mr. Hun Sen's coup against Prince Ranariddh

put that plan on hold.

Since ousting Prince Ranariddh Mr. Hun Sen has repeatedly told foreign countries to stay out of Cambodia's affairs, but he said he would meet U.S. envoy Stephen Solarz if he were asked to.

Mr. Solarz, formerly a key player in U.S. policy in the region, will try to develop a "coherent initiative" on Cambodia in talks with U.S. State Department spokesmen said earlier.

Former battlefield foes, Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen were forced into a coalition as dual prime ministers after U.N.-supervised elections in 1993 which Prince Ranariddh won.

A long-running row over power sharing was inflamed this year by disagreement over how to handle the disintegrating Khmer Rouge guerrilla group. Both men saw gains, political and military, in wooing Khmer Rouge defectors to their sides.

Mr. Hun Sen justified his coup against Prince Ranariddh by saying the prince was smuggling Khmer Rouge defectors into Phnom Penh to strengthen his forces. Prince Ranariddh denied he was doing so.

Human rights workers in Phnom Penh said Sunday they had found no Khmer

Rouge among the captured royalist troops they had been allowed to talk to.

The rights workers said they had documented 40 cases of extrajudicial killings in the wake of Mr. Hun Sen's takeover. The victims were military, police and government officials loyal to Prince Ranariddh.

On Saturday in Thailand, Prince Ranariddh, a son of King Norodom Sihanouk, denounced Mr. Hun Sen for rejecting ASEAN's peace efforts.

"In rejecting ASEAN mediation, I think Hun Sen is now isolating Cambodia by himself."

"Now I'm really afraid, we will have again a civil war in my country," said Prince Ranariddh in his first news conference in the region since his overthrow. Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia for France on the eve of the fighting.

Meanwhile, Southeast Asian countries felt "helpless" after the rejection of a mediation offer by Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, analysts said Sunday.

The main regional group, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), was angry at Mr. Hun Sen's rebuff, but will not make strife-torn Cambodia a long-term pariah, they added.

Afghan opposition claims major victory over Taleban

KABUL (AFP) — The Afghan opposition alliance said Sunday it had captured a provincial city and a key air base north of Kabul, dealing a major blow to the Taleban Islamic administration in the capital.

The alliance said it had inflicted major casualties on the Taleban. It followed up the success — which the Taleban denied — by immediately launching air raids on Kabul.

Forces loyal to Ahmad Shah Masood, a top military commander in the administration ousted by the Taleban, launched an attack late Saturday and secured Charikar, capital of Parwan province, and the nearby Bagram Air Base Sunday morning.

Bagram is just 50 kilometres from Kabul and would be an important launch pad for any campaign to retake the Afghan capital which fell to the Taleban last September.

The puritanical Muslim militia now controls around two thirds of Afghanistan but recent attempts to take remaining opposition areas in the north have been fought back.

"Charikar and Bagram have been totally captured in a major offensive," anti-Taleban spokesman Abdullah told AFP.

"The Taleban have suffered incredible human losses," Mr. Abdullah added.

The Taleban admitted there was heavy fighting but denied the loss of Bagram and Charikar, which is 64 kilometres north of Kabul.

Correspondents were prevented from passing a Taleban checkpoint on the road from Kabul to Bagram Air Base.

"We still control Bagram Air Base and Charikar," insisted Taleban commander Abdullah Khalik.

He said the Taleban had deliberately retreated to entice Mr. Masood's men into a trap. Mr. Khalik claimed the Taleban were advancing north again.

However many civilians were riding tractors and trailers loaded high with belongings, fleeing the fighting around Bagram for Kabul.

"Our village was coming under heavy shellfire from the attacking side. We had no choice but to totally evacuate," said one evacuee.

As he spoke two Taleban-piloted Mi-24 helicopter gunships flew low overhead in the wake of a jet fighter to land at Kabul Airport.

This air support underscored the seriousness of this fighting, analysts noted.

Meanwhile, at least seven people were killed and 12 wounded in a raid by a lone aircraft on suburban Kabul at midday Sunday, residents at the scene near the city's airport said.

"Most of the dead and wounded came from a house where the owner was hosting a lunch for his friends and relatives," one said.

The bombs hit the roof of the two-storey concrete house in the Khair Khana district and relatives and neighbours were digging through the rubble in a search for survivors, witnesses said.

As the aircraft flew over the capital, Taleban guns erupted with anti-aircraft fire, but the thumps of the bombs exploding all but drowned out the chatter of small arms fire.

Sunday's midday raid took place less than 12

hours after another raid in which bombs also landed close to the airport.

The air raid did not hit inside the airport perimeter. Two or three bombs landed close to the residential area north of Kabul, but there are no reports of casualties.

Faizullah, head of military security at the airport said Sunday morning before the second attack.

The airport is used for both military and civilian traffic and has been frequently targeted in the past. Both the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations use it for the transport of staff and supplies. Both agencies had planes land between the raids.

According to Mr. Abdullah the opposition offensive began last Friday with "cleaning-up operations" in wooded areas just north of Charikar.

After the fall of Charikar and the nearby entrance to the Ghorband Valley, Mr. Masood's men advanced to Bagram Air Base.

"Our intention was to cut-off the Taleban forces and not to let them escape," Mr. Abdullah said.

U.S. hurricane downgraded to tropical storm

MIAMI (AFP) — Weather officials here have downgraded the once-famed Hurricane Danny, which claimed two lives after battering the U.S. Gulf Coast for days, to the status of a tropical storm.

However, they also warned residents not to become complacent: Floods resulting from a tropical storm of similar intensity that hit the region in 1994 killed 30 people, they said.

At 3 a.m. (0700 GMT) Sunday the eye of the tropical storm Danny was located off coastal Alabama, 24 kilometres southwest of Pensacola, Florida, according to James Lewis Free at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

Police late Friday found the body of an unidentified man in a damaged sailboat in Fort Morgan, a community just south of Mobile. Another person died in Pirate's Cove, Alabama, according to news reports.

Winds dropped from a high of 120 kilometres an hour early Saturday to 96 kilometres an hour early Sunday, Mr. Free said.

"The winds probably won't be a major problem from now on, but we expect flooding to be a major concern," Mr. Free said.

Torrential rains continued to pound the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida's western panhandle as the storm crawled northeast at a speed of 4.8 kilometres an hour.

Roofs were ripped off houses and trees uprooted in Gulf Shores, Alabama, some 40 kilometres southeast of the port city of Mobile, Alabama.

Alabama emergency authorities reported that a railroad crossing collapsed in the southwestern part of the state when heavy rains undermined the crossing foundation.

Water, more than wind, posed the greater threat to coastal areas. On the hurricane's eastern curve, moderate to strong thunderstorms spread in a radius of more than 300 kilometres.

Some 1,500 people were evacuated from southern Alabama, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Eleven shelters were set up in western Florida to take in those leaving their homes in a voluntary evacuation area.

In 1994 floods resulting from Tropical Storm Alberto, which never reached hurricane status, killed 30 people in southwest Georgia.

H. Kong faces tough challenges ahead

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's new China-backed rulers face mounting challenges over the legality of the territory's Beijing-appointed legislature, a crackdown on young Chinese immigrants and the suspension of labour laws.

Legal and political experts warned Sunday any ruling by Hong Kong courts in favour of the establishment will cast doubt on the region's rule of law and judicial independence.

Trouble has gathered pace since Hong Kong's return to China on July 1 and the swearing-in of the Beijing-backed provisional legislature, which some pro-democracy figures and legal experts have attacked as illegal.

The body, which replaced an elected chamber on July 1, has since passed a government-sponsored law enacting new hurdles for Chinese children wanting to join their Hong Kong-resident parents here.

Pro-democracy figures and the Hong Kong Bar Association, a grouping of senior lawyers, have slammed the ruling because Hong Kong's post-handover constitution gives residency rights to these children.

More than 100 lawyers have offered help free of charge to hundreds of children who are now threatened with deportation to the mainland on grounds that they entered illegally.

"If the court were to rule in favour of the provisional legislature or the new immigration law that would be a sign that the courts are not going to be all that relevant in the governance of Hong Kong," said law Professor Nihal Jayawickrama.

The English-language South China Morning Post voiced a similar warning over the weekend.

"Any doubts and cracks in the system of rule of law, on the exercise of lawful rights of individuals... will be costly. And everyone will have to pay," the newspaper said.

Hanging heavily over Hong Kong was also a dispute between the establishment and labour rights groups after the provisional legislature suspended three labour laws, enacted by the previous chamber shortly before it was disbanded.

The laws had given collective bargaining rights to unions and allowed use of union funds for political activities.

Local labour groups, backed by international unions, have vowed to challenge the freeze, which was presented to the chamber by the government of Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa.

"We have to exert as much pressure as possible before October, when the

government is about to introduce amendments to the suspended laws," former pro-democracy legislator Lee Cheuk-yan, a leader of the local labour movement, said.

Eliza Lee, assistant professor of public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said the issue underlined the polarisation of class interests in Hong Kong and warned of its dangers.

"The political significance is obvious. It becomes a question of class interest, that of labour interests versus business interests," Ms. Lee told Reuters.

"All these labour groups, when they don't have an institutionalised way of expressing their views, what do they do? You'll see them bringing it to the streets, demonstrating."

But despite the controversies, Hong Kong people have given their territory a resounding vote of confidence and fewer of them now say they want to leave, reported the Post.

Only 6.2 per cent of people polled said they were considering moving abroad, according to a survey conducted after July 1 by the University of Hong Kong, which polled 1,048 people.

In an April survey conducted by another agency, up to 15 per cent of those polled said they hoped to emigrate.

Basque leaders urge ETA rebels to declare truce

MADRID (R) — The government of Spain's Basque region called on ETA guerrillas Saturday to "follow the example" of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and declare a truce.

The appeal for an end to ETA's campaign of terror was issued one week after a killing by Basque separatists sparked national outrage.

It came on the same day that bells rang out from churches and town halls across Spain in continuing protest against the murder of Miguel Angel Blanco, a Basque town councillor.

Declaring that "the decision is clearly in ETA's hands," Basque leaders issued their plea for an "indefinite truce" shortly after the IRA announced a new truce to take effect in Northern Ireland at mid-day Sunday.

"The public outcry of the past week points precisely in that direction," Basque Interior Minister Juan Maria Añutxa said.

Millions of Spaniards, incensed by the murder of an ordinary, low-ranking functionary, have taken to the streets in recent days to vent

their anger. Pope John Paul II and other world leaders have also condemned the killing.

Mr. Añutxa said ETA was now faced with "an historic moment and a chance to give a future of peace and hope to this people."

He urged ETA's political arm, Herri Batasuna, to support the call for a truce just as the IRA's political arm Sinn Féin had backed such a move by the guerrillas in Northern Ireland.

"Every day that passes without a condemnation of ETA's crimes and without support for a truce makes (Herri Batasuna) more of an accomplice to the murders committed," he said.

"The Basque government is calling on ETA and Herri Batasuna to follow the example of what has happened this weekend in Ireland," Mr. Añutxa said.

A spokesman for Herri Batasuna declined comment.

The last ETA truce lasted for only one week in the summer of 1996. The rebels ended it after rejecting the government's demand that they renounce violence before any negotiations could take place. The guerril-

las then mounted a series of bomb attacks on tourist resorts.

Many Spaniards stood in silence Saturday as bells rang for five minutes beginning at 4 p.m. In a show of solidarity for Blanco's family and of condemnation for his murderers.

It was timed to mark the one-week anniversary of a crime that has mobilised public opposition in a way never seen in ETA's 29-year history of armed struggle. The group has killed nearly 800 people in its fight for an independent homeland encompassing parts of northern Spain and southern France.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar predicted Friday night that July 12, 1997, would go down in history as a critical turning point in the government's fight against "a terrorist minority dedicated to the destruction of democracy."

Anti-ETA demonstrations and church services were planned in Madrid and other major cities, and scores of people in a town in southern Spain launched a hunger strike described as a protest at "all kinds of terrorism."

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

The Israelis also need to be served with a clear notice that their current leadership is turning the region from economic prosperity to deprivation and stagnation. The Israeli economy has suffered a great deal in the past year or so from the Likud leadership and the disruption of the regional economic cooperation would only reinforce the signal that unless and until Israel moves more expeditiously in the direction of a just and comprehensive peace, the price tag becomes greater, perhaps even unbearable.

That is why the Arab side should have no qualms about resisting the call for going ahead with the Doha meeting. The balance sheet for the proposal for a Doha meeting appears to be heavily tilted against it.

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Voyage into nativism — a tale of Occidental-Oriental engagement

Iranian intellectuals and the West: The tormented triumph of nativism
By Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Syracuse University Press, 1996, 256 pp.
Index, glossary, bibliography, and catalogue of Iranian intellectual and political figures.

THIS IS a rich and powerful book, and it should find a much wider audience than only scholars and lay people interested in modern Iran and its interaction with the West. This book tells the story of Iranian intellectuals and their struggle to define their state and culture in an authentic, indigenous manner that relies heavily on Islamist identity, but it also tells a much wider story of cultures of the developing South and their struggle with the forces of modernity, statehood, and Occidentalism. It is an important book that will probably spark others in its wake, and an admirable addition to Syracuse University Press' expanding series of quality books on Middle Eastern issues.

Dr Boroujerdi, assistant professor of political science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, has provided a refreshing antidote to two huge phenomena that have plagued much of the last half century of the Occidental-Oriental encounter: the triumphalism of the secular, democratic, free market ideologies of the post-Enlightenment Occident, and the Orient's consequent, rather lazy, penchant to revert to older, proven, comfortable religious and ethnic identities as a means of withstanding the Western onslaught.

Organised as a survey of selected men (sorry, no women here) and their ideas during this century, the book explores how Iranian intellectuals and clerics have struggled to define a "nativist" and authentic national identity, often in response to a sense of being forced to become Westernised against their will — whether due to their own government's policies, the pressures of Western capitalism-diplomacy, or the uncontrolled forces of market consumerism and technological "machinism".

The author shows how Shi'ism was a central but not the sole ideological component of the revolution by which Ayatollah Khomeini toppled the Shah of Iran in 1979. He traces the lines of Iranian intellectual thought from the early decades of the century to the 1979 revolution, and then beyond, showing "remarkable continuity in Iranian thought" throughout this century. A constant, key dimension of this was the idea of nativism — which the author defines in its broadest sense as "the doctrine that calls for the resurgence, reinstatement or continuance of native or indigenous cultural customs, beliefs and values. Nativism is grounded on such deeply held beliefs as resisting acculturation, privileging one's own 'authentic' ethnic identity, and longing for a return to 'an unsullied indigenous cultural tradition'."

Boroujerdi makes the important point that nativism is not tantamount to ignorance of modernity, but should be viewed as a modern phenomenon in its own right. It has positive and negative dimensions, and "should be understood in the dual context of the internal politics of the societies in which it emerges and from the process of (cross-cultural) encounter with the West."

The strength of this book is not that it paints a particularly positive or always approving picture of modern Iranian thinkers and their ideas, but rather, and more simply, that it provides an accurate, relatively comprehensive overview of the scope of leading ideologies, movements and ideas that have emanated from Iran in recent decades. It shatters the simplistic, ignorance-based, official policy-driven, and one-dimensional portrayal of Iran as a theocratic thug-tocracy that pervades the American- and British-dominated global

mass media. Instead, it shows Iran as it really is: an ancient civilisation whose cumulative millennia — millennia, not centuries — of urban and learned religious, cultural, professional and intellectual classes have brought it into the 20th century with ample reserves of ideas about itself and "the other". It is refreshing to hear a major Third World cultural and intellectual power speak for itself, rather than be spoken for by Her Majesty's official purveyors of Mickey Mouse franchises.

Boroujerdi focuses on selected Iranian intellectuals because "they have come to serve as crucial intermediaries and interpreters between their own culture and that of the West." He adds: "as active culture bearers, their narration of Iran's past and present history and their interpretation of Western culture has, no doubt, affected the outlook of Iranian masses toward such issues as nationalism, modernity, secularism, democracy and humanism."

As modern Iranian governments largely failed their people in the fields of identity, ideology and economy, the Iranian state under the late, last Shah slowly became a despotic ruler state that lacked legitimacy. Its two most natural and effective indigenous opponents turned out to be the clerical class and the intellectuals — important groups of Iranians who found themselves estranged from — "othered" by — both the powerful West and their own state. In the 1960s and 70s the response to this dilemma came from secular militants, the literati, and the men of religion.

A quarter of the way into the book, the author starts his review of leading Iranian intellectuals with Seyyed Fakhrudin Shadnan (1907-1967) who challenged Iranians in 1948 to appropriate and absorb positive elements of Western civilisation (e.g., democracy, science) or risk being taken over by it as had happened in Algeria. The important ideas of Ahmad Fardid and Jalal Al-e Ahmad are also reviewed, with their important focus on religion as a central element of a native Persian response to the power of the West.

The next chapter deftly recounts the rise of a "religious subculture" in the decades before the 1979 revolution — a subculture that involved a "politicisation of Islam" that "in turn promulgated the otherness of the state, the West and the secularists."

Boroujerdi here pens one of the finest sections of his book: an analysis of the comparative advantages of the clerics in their rise to power, the historic relationship between the Iranian court and clerics, the debates within the clergy about their role in society and their coming to terms with modernity, the clergy's deliberate move into the modern education sector, their appeal to the urban poor, and other aspects of the process by which the men of religion mobilised themselves for mass political action against the state. The development of the religious subculture in the second half of this century, the author notes, "was not so much the traditionalisation of modernity, but the modernisation of tradition." This section of the book is particularly tightly and elegantly written, rich in facts and clear in its explanation of trends over time.

Chapter 5 then resumes the narrative of modern Iranian nativism through the personalities and ideas of leading intellectuals. The first to be discussed are the "lay religious intellectuals" who stood at what Boroujerdi calls the intersection of the three major ideological contests of post-World War II Iran — the modern/traditional, left-wing/right-wing, and state/clerical rivalries that were waged concurrently. Many of these intellectuals emanated from the city of Meshhad, in northeast Iran, whose significance as a centre of thought is explained.

The most important personality in this group was Ali

Shari'ati, the "Voltaire" of the revolution, who "was able to reinterpret Shi'ism's claims of historical persecution, its discourse of martyrdom, and its futuristic language (promising eternal salvation, heaven, and immortal happiness for those who choose to confront the 'unjust others') in a modernist vein."

His disdain of the West, the author says, "was not that of an Islamic mystic unaware of the West but that of a disillusioned Western-educated intellectual;" yet, "his thought was permeated by the prevailing presence of the West... he believed that Islam needed to be reconciled with the necessities of the age of modernity... (and he inferred) that Iran was in need of the likes of Luther and Calvin to spearhead Islamic Protestantism."

The appeal of the Mojahedin-e Khalq (people's holy warriors) organisation, headed by Mas'ud Rajavi, and the ideas of the world-renowned scholar Seyyed Hoseyn Nasr are examined for proposing a return to Shiite Islam as the antidote to the threat of "gharbzadegi" ("Westernisation") that has challenged Iranian intellectuals since the late 19th century. One of the strengths of this book is evident in this chapter, where Boroujerdi both compares and contrasts the ideas of Shari'ati and Nasr, and also gives his own critical comments on their views — again revealing the breadth of Iranian intellectual pluralism and vitality that is so poorly appreciated by many around the world.

The decades of the 1960s and 70s, "a turning point in Iran's intellectual history," saw the rise to prominence of "academic nativism", which is captured in the ideas of mostly Western-educated academics like Seyyed Abolhasan Jalili, Mohammad-Ali Eslami-Nadushan, Jamshid Behnam, Ehsan Naraq, Hamid Enayati and Daryush Shayanegari.

Chapter 7 follows up with a discussion of leading ideas in Iran after the 1979 revolution, which "fuelled the development of thought" during a period that was "politically repressive yet intellectually flourishing." The discussions now taking place in Iran, Boroujerdi says, "are philosophically sophisticated, intellectually sound, socially relevant and politically modern."

Here he describes and assesses the ideas of "the unofficial leading ideologies of the new regime" (who emerged after the deaths of other leading figures) — Reza Davari-Ardakani and Hoseyn Haj-Faraj-Dabagh (better known by his pen name of Abdolkarim Sorush). Among the major ideas that these two thinkers have sparred about are the definition of the West and how Iranians should relate to it, the historicism/positivism debate, and the concept of traditional versus dynamic jurisprudence in making the shari'a "congruent with the needs and limitations of a theocratic state in the late twentieth century."

In his short, but substantial and thought-provoking, epilogue, the author concludes that Iranian intellectual preoccupation with the concept of "self" has always been constrained by and related to the "perception of a dominating Western other." Iranian intellectuals generally accepted Western civilisation as their "culture of reference in the process of identity formation," and batted the West with intellectual concepts borrowed from the West — i.e., "they identify with Rousseau's call for social justice, Marx's analysis of class struggle, Heidegger's critique of technology, and Sartre's call for committed intellectuals."

This is one of the most important points to emerge from this book — that Iranian thinkers, including religious leaders, have not blindly resorted to an Oriental-Islamic theological repudiation of Western modernity, but rather have long struggled to reconcile the reality of Western progress

and power with their desire to achieve similar advances without shedding their moral- and religious-based values and cultural legacy.

"In their attempt to evade Eurocentrism, they succumbed to nativism," Boroujerdi writes. This was because nativism proved capable of articulating the fine line that Iranian thinkers have had to walk "between rationalism and mysticism, secularism and religion, elitism and populism, and progress and reaction," and because "the combative and assertive nature of nativism could accommodate both the principles of Third World populism as well as the messianic and elitist themes of Shi'ism."

Yet, the author concludes, "despite its triumphant political status nativism remains intellectually tormented," and is "a superficial palliative," for "it commits the same mistake as orientalism proper."

He asks: Can Iranians continue to denounce the West while absorbing the paradigm of modernity? He answers with "a qualified maybe". He challenges Iranian intellectuals "to realise that they can no longer stroll vicariously in the museum of the past with its assortment of heroes, demigods, and memoirs," and notes that they are "privileged enough to live simultaneously in two disparate life-worlds: the historic and the (post)modern."

Three important things may immediately strike the reader of this book: a) the very wide, deep range of ideas within the pluralistic and dynamic intellectual circles of Iran, b) the centrality of Western thought as a stimulus to Iranian responses, critiques and counter-ideas about nation, state, religion, secularism and identity, and, c) the pivotal role of both Shiite Islam and a nativist, often pre-Islamic, Iranian cultural identity as vehicles for expressing the indigenous Iranian response to the challenges of Western modernity.

This book is all the more impressive because it far transcends the physical and cultural frontiers of Iran. The intellectual panorama it depicts within the contours of a wider national struggle for identity is repeated, in fact, throughout the developing South. Most of the ideas that are reviewed here in a specifically Iranian context are mirrored throughout the Arab World, for example, where most people (Egypt and Yemen excluded) do not enjoy the Iranian advantage of a strong sense of distinct nationhood that is both geographically defined and historically experienced. The Iranian intellectual voyage into nativism is valuable to understand in its own right, but also as a reflection of the wider tale of Occidental-Oriental engagement that has defined the last several hundred years of global history.

Orientalism and nativism (or orientalism and occidentalism) are best appreciated as two aspects of a single phenomenon, and this book is important because it does precisely this — while also spectacularly shattering the considerable myths, ignorance and stereotypes about Iran propagated among many Western intellectuals, state policymakers and captains of mass media and popular culture. This book will promote a more accurate, better understanding of Iran by those interested in such a venture, and a better appreciation by interested Iranians of their historically, culturally, theologically and intellectually significant place in the world. As such, it dignifies that "middle ground" that the author mentions in his epilogue — a middle ground that "tries to contemporise traditions", while rejecting both imitations of the West and modernity, and "nostalgic lapses into the psychology of antiquated heroes."

Good things happen when the occident and orient meet in a spirit of cultural respect, historical honesty, and intellectual rigour, as this book demonstrates yet again.

Rami G. Khouri

BOOK REVIEW



सत्यमेव जयते



IJC



Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co. Ltd. (IJC)

On the occasion of the inauguration of the US\$170 million prestigious Phosphoric Acid Complex, under the patronage of

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Hassan

the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the company extend their warm greetings to the peoples of India and Jordan.

Proposal to give Jordan \$150m aid goes to U.S. House

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The congressional proposal to grant Jordan \$150 million for 1998 still has a way to go before being passed.

Late last week the Senate passed the bill which is now in the House of Representatives awaiting debate.

Once the House approves the bill, the appropriations committees of both the Senate and House of Representatives will have to confer in order to adopt the proposed legislation. Director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, Rania Attallah, told the Jordan Times Sunday.

According to U.S. Embassy Press Attaché Stephen Thibault, "the budget has not been passed yet for 1998."

Ms. Attallah added that the fund, allocated for economic projects, will be

financed over the next five years.

The fund was announced during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Washington last June.

According to the Associated Press (AP), State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said the fund will be provided 50-50 out of aid money provided to Egypt and Israel.

It added that Israel receives \$3 billion in economic and military assistance annually, and Egypt \$2.2 billion. They are the two largest recipients of U.S. aid.

"We feel very strongly that aid to Jordan ought to be upgraded and ought to be filled out and expanded, and that's what we're working on," AP quoted Mr. Burns as saying.

Mr. Thibault said USAID grants to Jordan in 1997 reached \$146 million.

IMF looks at governments, laws as well as economies

WASHINGTON (R) —

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is adding new ingredients to the recipe it serves up to borrowing countries, calling for good government and easy to work laws to complement traditional economic plans.

The new thinking, described by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus as "second-generation reforms," is part of a reassessment of the way the IMF does business with its member nations in eastern Europe and the developing world.

The IMF is realising that low inflation is not enough to guarantee long-term economic growth if officials are corrupt or laws are opaque and easy to avoid.

"Governance as an economic factor is being seen increasingly as important in the sustained improvement of economic performance," Karin Lissakers, U.S. executive director to the IMF, told Reuters recently.

"The fund has, with strong encouragement from the U.S. government, done a lot of soul-searching over the last couple of years to try to figure out why some adjustments, using the same standard elements, work better than others, why some countries fall off the wagon and revert to past practices," she said.

She added: "We have come to recognise ... that permanent institutional change is central in many countries to sustain good fiscal and inflation performance and improving economic performance in the long haul."

The IMF has traditionally set targets for inflation, central bank reserves or government borrowing to help decide whether to hand over multimillion dollar loans to strengthen a country's economy or propel it onto the path of growth.

Delays in collecting taxes or in meeting other targets — the first was the case in Russia earlier this year — can

lead to delays in the IMF paying out the cash.

But now, IMF officials are looking at how to measure legal systems or the competence of officials as well, although such ideas may end up being guidelines rather than hard-and-fast conditions determining whether the IMF releases a loan.

"This is something the IMF is worried about, but it should not be interpreted as a new type of conditionality," said one monetary source, who declined to be named.

"They are not in a position to put conditionality on the judicial system or on congress. It is beyond their capacity or legal mandate," he added.

The IMF stress on good government is part of a wider trend among international financial organisations that plays down the idea of laissez faire liberal economics and plays up the idea that the state has an important role to play.

The World Bank's Annual Development Report, published last month, said good government was essential for economic growth and said governments should work with business not against it.

The bank said tasks like regulating markets, protecting the environment and providing a functioning legal system had to be carried out by the state and not by the private sector.

"The second generation of reform requires good governance in all its dimensions, including, in particular, effective and reliable public institutions," Mr. Camdessus said when he outlined the idea of second generation reforms in Buenos Aires in May.

"Neglecting these essential aspects of the role of the state only invites a creeping delegitimisation of public institutions, which sabotages economic efficiency, erodes confidence and undermines growth and equity," he emphasised.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 20/07/97 18:20

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLS	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7900	0.8950	1.4720	116.12	1.3780	1745.00	2.0175	6.0555
DE Mark	0.5587	-	0.3325	0.8221	64.87	0.7663	974.32	1.1289	3.3823
GB Sterling	1.6780	3.0035	-	2.4729	193.51	2.3089	2928.11	3.3854	10.1611
CH Franc	0.6783	1.2156	0.4045	-	76.88	0.9345	1185.06	136.74	4.1124
JP Yen	0.0086	1.5402	0.5125	1.2666	-	1.1840	15.01	173.69	5.2104
CA Dollar	0.7267	1.3004	0.4333	1.0694	1.16	-	1267.71	1.4657	4.3992
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0252	0.3411	0.8843	1804.89	0.7881	-	11.55	3.4882
NL Guilder	0.4957	0.8870	0.2951	0.7295	57.52	0.6819	864.72	-	3.0007
FR Franc	0.1651	0.2925	0.0983	0.24005	19.16	0.2272	33.31	33.3100	-

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6305	0.3033	3.6721	1534.00	3.3825
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	8.2898	0.5317	5.1333	0.4270	5.1793	2163.01	4.7708
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.37	0.0808	0.96	409.01	0.9019
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8908	9.9491	-	9.65	0.8048	9.74	4069.29	8.9729
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1948	1.0305	1.0305	-	0.0833	1.01	421.49	0.9284
Kuwait Dinar	3.2971	2.3376	12.3858	1.2428	12.00	-	12.11	6057.70	0.9284
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0214	1.0207	0.9911	0.0826	-	417.74	0.9211
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4622	2.4449	0.2457	2.3726	0.1977	2.3938	-	2.2050
Egyptian	0.2956	0.2096	1.1088	0.1114	1.0760	0.0897	1.0856	453.51	-

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	16.66	16.28
WTI	16.10	15.90
Bonny	18.66	18.28
Dubai	17.55	17.49
UL Gas	184.00	184.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4775	0.1589	0.3282	30.9879
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48773	0.16228	0.40999	31.6498
KW Dinar	3.2971	5.90667	1.96502	4.85437	383.142
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.75059	1.58078	3.90625	308.261
CY Pound	1.8967	3.3951	1.1207	2.7919	220.245

Metal Prices

Metal	Last	Offer
Gold (oz's)	326.5	329.1
Silver (oz's)	4.28	4.3
Platinum (oz's)	412	415
AL (3 Months)	1605	1608
CU (3 Months)	2326	2331
Zinc (3 Months)	1525	1530
Lead (3 Months)	648	652
NI (3 Months)	6795	6825

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	1	3	6	12	24	36
Currency	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months
USD	5.58	5.62	5.68	5.76	5.76	5.76
GBP	6.75	6.84	6.93	7.12	7.12	7.38
JPY	0.41	0.44	0.45	0.51	0.51	0.57
DEM	3.08	3.08	3.09	3.24	3.24	3.28
FRF	3.28	3.28	3.38	3.43	3.43	3.48
CHF	1.45	1.45	1.53	1.56	1.56	1.60
ITL	6.86	6.85	6.73	6.55	6.40	6.40

Main Equity Indices

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	P/Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	7890.46	-130.31	-1.62	8036.1	7875.36	8020.77
NewYork	S&P 500	915.3	-19.31	-1.75	931.61	912.9	931.61
London	FT-SE 100	4877.2	-71.8	-1.46	4988.1	4848.3	4948
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20249.22	-289.93	-1.32	20545.2	20248.1	20519.3
Paris	CAC 40	2876.69	-51.9	-1.77	2941.91	2843.41	2858.59
Frankfurt	DAX	4196.53	-30.70	-0.73	4204.16	4173.1	4227.31

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (lb/50)	17.442	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1566	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	330.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	139	Spot
Soya (lb/50)	22.13	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	130	Spot
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1868	1.1927
DE Mark	0.3952	0.3972
CH Franc	0.4802	0.4826
FR Franc	0.1168	0.1174
JP Yen	0.0508	0.0519
NL Guilder	0.3505	0.3523
IT Lira	0.4052	0.4072

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

U.S. Treasury chief upbeat on outlook, plays market correction forecast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin voiced confidence Sunday the U.S. economic outlook was bright, appearing to shrug off the idea the government should take extra steps to brace for a major stock market correction.

"I do believe the economic outlook looks good," Mr. Rubin told NBC Television. "As long as we continue to do things and take measures that make sense, and stay on a sensible path."

Asked if the government ought to consider additional measures to prepare for a major stock market correction, given that huge amounts of

retirement cash are invested, Mr. Rubin said: "I'm comfortable that we are well-prepared should anything happen, but I certainly have no view as to the likelihood that such a thing would happen."

"With respect to the stock market, you have got a second question which is valuation. Is the stock market too low relative to favourable expectations, if in fact you have favourable expectations, too high or is it about right?" Mr. Rubin said.

"I think those are the kinds of judgements that each investor has to make for themselves," he said.

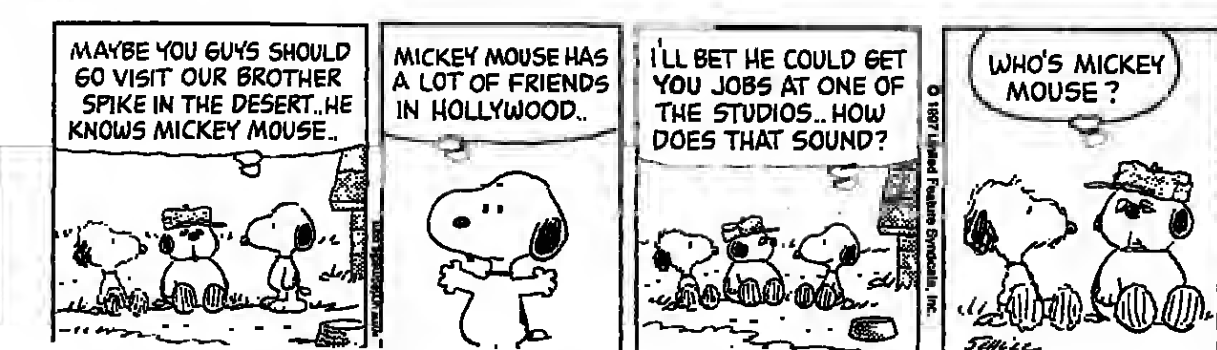
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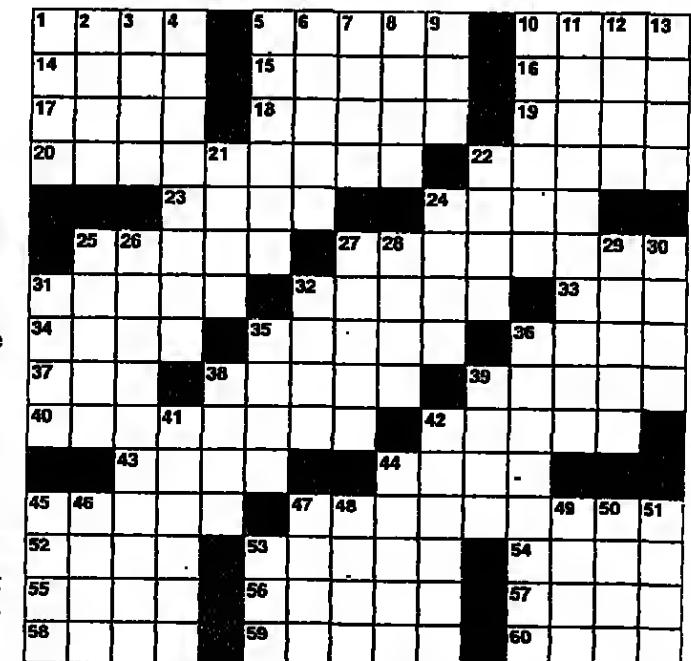


Mutt'n'Jeff



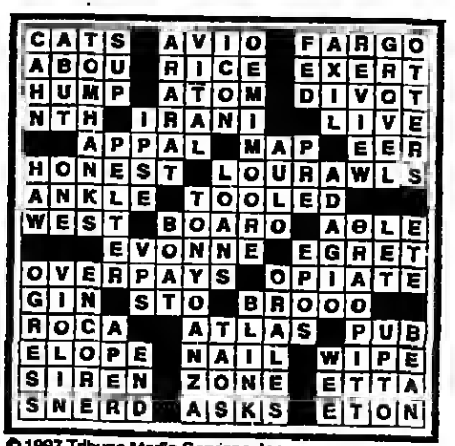
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS
1 Bridge
5 Washbowl
10 CA valley
14 "Arsenic and Old ..."
15 As ... (generally)
16 Exam type
17 Commedia dell'arte
18 "The Hoosier Poet"
19 WWII battle site
20 Ballet dance
22 Border lake
23 Asian kingdom
24 Fragrant resin
25 Caller
27 New Jersey city
31 Person's home
32 Paycheck exte
33 Chinese leader
34 Hebrew prophet
35 Creator of Capt. Nemo
36 Missile
37 Russian space station
38 Velvet finish
39 Lassies
40 Contest competitors
42 Authorized substitute
43 Roll call word
44 Stratum
45 Franklin invention
47 April bugaboo
52 Ore body
53 Villain's expression
54 Source of hot pastas
55 Cupid
56 Native of Tehran
57 Needle case
58 Bible passage
59 Mississippi's end
60 18-wheeler



by Harvey Chew

- 2 Arm of the Amazon
3 N.T. book
4 Unnecessary
5 French actress
6 Constellation
7 "Enterprise" navigator
8 Holly genus
9 Waterloo marshal
10 Cash register key
11 Harpo
12 - Alto
13 Healing plant
15 Effortlessness
22 Little ones
24 Test answer
25 Street urchin
26 Offbeat
27 Toe problems
28 Boleyn
29 Betimes
30 Young'uns
31 Broadway hit
32 Links grass
35 Weathercock



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- 36 Trojan War hero
38 Curtail
39 Metric weight
41 Backtrack
42 City in Illinois
44 Agreeable odor
45 Blind part
46 Volume
47 Concerning
48 Patricia of "Hud"
49 Head, to Henri
50 Styptic
51 Vi plus VII
53 A Caesar

HOROSCOPES FOR MONDAY JULY 21, 1997

By Thomas & Patricia Astrologer, Carroll Righier, Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get together today with some good friends and discuss how you can "help" help another, to become successful. Social events can be especially enjoyable later this evening, as are spent with ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be correct with your and finances, and you will have any new easy, and rest evening, so that you are prepared for career activities in the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't waste any time getting involved in a senseless "disagreement" today, which you have no desire to become involved with anyway. Stick to your schedule, and get career activities accomplished for your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Seek the advice of an expert today who can help you to better organize your finances, thereby you will have some extra funds. Plan some recreational activities with your mate for the days ahead, and thereby you can enjoy yourselves.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to deal more harmoniously with regular business contacts, and thereby you can achieve great prosperity. It is very important that you deal with the utmost care today and later this evening so that you avoid any difficulties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Pay more than usual attention to both civic and credit matters today, so that you avoid any obstacles. This is a good evening to go out on the town with some good friends and enjoy each others company.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Start planning that trip you must take in the days ahead, and you may be wise to go by train. Get into a new activity with your mate, which you both can enjoy, thereby a harmonious time will exist for everyone involved.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is important that you have a necessary discussion with your mate today, however don't lose your temper or a conflict could exist. Use more ingenuity in business at this time, and you will receive great appreciation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put some extra enthusiasm into your daily career activities today, and you will handle them quickly and easier. Get plenty of rest later this evening, thereby you can handle the business associates who will have good advice.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are full of energy today, so be sure to use it constructively and you will be much appreciated by fellow associates and those in authority. Be more cooperative with fellow associates who will have good advice.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You should not let anyone interrupt your schedule today, and be especially wary of get-rich-quick schemes. Be more understanding to your mate later this evening, thereby you can the harmony which will exist.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A loved one has been expecting you to complete an obligation for quite a while, and you would be wise to do just that at this time. Later this evening, will be a good time to meet with knowledgeable people for advice.

Birthstone of July: Pearl
— Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Murad leads la

Gaza for ma

once while The co-organised Ministry International announce other mu can private

By William — A Jordanian delegation led by the chairman of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, Samir al-Ghazal, to attend the Palestinian community activities

Middle East Investment posts JD396,000 ne

OF THE JDI's net profit total earned last year, Middle East Investment Bank last year, the bank's net profit compared to the end of 1996. The earnings, which were interest and commission income, were higher than the total during 1996, when the bank's net profit was JD263.3 million.

The bank's net profit for the year ended on June 30, 1997, was JD396,000, or 15.4 per cent of the bank's total assets, which stood at JD2,570 million. The bank's net profit for the year ended on June 30, 1996, was JD263.3 million, or 10.4 per cent of the bank's total assets, which stood at JD2,520 million.

Manager Murad Awad said the bank's net profit for the year ended on June 30, 1997, was JD396,000, or 15.4 per cent of the bank's total assets, which stood at JD2,570 million. The bank's net profit for the year ended on June 30, 1996, was JD263.3 million, or 10.4 per cent of the bank's total assets, which stood at JD2,520 million.

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Murad leads large Jordanian delegation to Gaza for major Palestinian conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian economic delegation led by Haidar Murad, the chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Sunday left for Gaza to attend the first Palestinian expatriates business community conference which will open Monday.

The conference has been organised by the Palestine Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in conjunction with a number of other ministries and Palestinian private and public organisations.

In a statement upon his departure, Mr. Murad said the Kingdom's delegation groups over 100 members of Jordanian chambers of commerce as well as representatives of the industrial sector and other businessmen who will take part in the deliberations and the workshops that will be organised on the sidelines of the conference.

He said that Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen will hold discussions among themselves and with Palestinian officials noting that the Jordanian delegation will submit a working paper to the conference about Jordanian-Palestinian ties and ways for promoting economic and trade links.

The conference provides a good opportunity for Jordanian businessmen to discuss trade and investments with their Palestinian counterparts and to examine the present problems impeding trade as a result of the Israeli government measures which still hampers the flow of goods and services between the two sides.

Affirming the strong and historic ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, Mr. Murad said that the Jordanian business community is implementing directives by His Majesty King Hussein in promoting ties with the Palestinians in all fields.

He said that there are wide scopes for cooperation between the two sides adding that the Jordanian business community deals with the Palestinian colleagues on the basis of having the same goals and aspirations.

Kuwait agencies to chase up arrears from 'pro-Iraq' states

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's state-owned agencies are seeking to collect arrears worth millions of dollars from loans to states accused of siding with Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, reports said Sunday.

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), which provides low-interest loans and grants, has had no contacts with Sudan, Jordan, Mauritania and Yemen since 1990, although they have outstanding loans, the KFAED general manager said.

"These arrears reach 100 million dinars (\$330 million), which we do not consider written-off. We will undertake to collect them shortly as relations return to normal," Bader Al Humaidi told the daily Al Rai Al Aam.

Kuwait accused these states of supporting Iraq following the August 1990 invasion of the emirate and froze ties. But, recently, there have been signs of improving relations.

Government-owned KFAED "will move ahead in same way as with Tunisia, which made payments on its arrears in 1994," Mr. Humaidi said.

Relations with Tunisia were strained during the invasion, but have since been fully restored. The official news agency also said a delegation from Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), another state-owned agency, headed for

Sanaa on Sunday to discuss repayments on loans that were aimed to support Yemen's banking system.

The KUNA report said the KIA loans with interest are also worth about 100 million dinars. The delegation was invited by the Yemeni government to discuss resuming payments stopped since 1990, it added.

KIA's main role is to manage Kuwait's overseas assets which are estimated

to be worth more than \$40 billion, while KFAED was set up in 1961 to provide financing to development projects in Arab and other developing countries.

Earlier this month, Kuwait and Jordan restored airlinks by their national carriers, a Sudanese government official made the first visit to Kuwait since the invasion and an unofficial Kuwaiti academic delegation visited Sanaa.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Middle East Investment Bank posts JD396,000 net profit

OUT OF the JD 6.5 million total earnings achieved by the Middle East Investment Bank last year, the bank posted a JD396,000 net profit compared to a JD136.7 net profit at the end of 1995. The earnings, 93.4 per cent of which were interest and commission income, were 29.5 per cent higher than the total during 1995.

Deposits grew by 9.6 per cent to JD39.7 million last year with credit facilities rising by 2.1 per cent to JD35.7 million. The bank's balance sheet total increased by 4.1 per cent and closed the year at JD62.3 million.

The general assembly authorised the board of directors to take the appropriate measures to select the alternative it sees fit to meet the requirement of the Central Bank to raise the bank's capital from JD10 million to JD20 million.

General Manager Marwan Awad said there are many alternatives to raising capital, either through increasing it locally or through foreign capital or even through merging with another bank. Another option is to raise the capital partially and to cover the rest by a supporting loan. Mr. Awad said the bank is very carefully studying the options in order to take the final decision (Al Duxour + Al Aswaq).

Jordan Gulf Bank net profit drop by 57.1 per cent

NET PROFIT recorded by the Jordan Gulf Bank last year amounted to JD1.47 million which was 57.1 per cent less than the net profit in 1995. Board Chairman Zuhair Awartani attributed the drop to the conservative policies adopted by the management of the bank towards expanding credit facilities in favour of consolidating the bank's liquidity and reserves. He also cited the economic recession as a factor for lowering the aspirations of the bank.

The bank's total assets grew by 4.7 per cent to JD179.5 million with the main concentration being in cash and deposits held at banks as well as certificates of deposit issued by the Central Bank. The investment portfolio of shares increased by three per cent to reach JD8.3 million.

The net direct credit facilities fell by 2.5 per cent to JD102.4 million. This drop was mainly due to the rise in the allocation of credit facilities and suspended interest which reached to JD2.4 million. Total credit facilities extended by the bank have reached JD173.3 million (JD64.2 million for general trade, JD21.7 million for construction and JD18.5 million for industry and mining) but the total balance of the allocation for credit facilities and suspended interest has reached JD70.8 million.

According to bank statements, there is irregular repayment on JD80 million of credit facilities.

The total deposits of clients grew by 7.4 per cent to JD143.4 million and fixed assets increased by 30 per cent to reach JD5.2 million due to the purchase of the premises of the branch on King Hussein Street (Al Aswaq + Al Arab Al Yawm).

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"To retire comfortably and afford a nice nursing home someday, we should have started saving in 1846."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PEALL
ESING
HESTIF
CHISPY

Do you think there will be any guys on board?

Three words to go

EXERCISING WILL HELP DO THIS BEFORE A CRUISE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIANO DICED INVADE RADIUM
Answer: What the competitive actresses did backstage - MADE UP

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
MOBILISING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
UNOFFICIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 20/07/1997											
PRICE	12 MONTH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALU	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE	
100	100				SHARES	OF	ES	PRICE	PRICE		
297,000	214,500	ABAB BANK	13.6	1.36	59	1540	453280	296.00	295.00	-0.01	
2,340	1,480	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	60	43437	93104	2.11	2.12	+0.01	
1,210	880	WID. EAST INV. BK.	62.4	0.00	7	8150	7601	92	95	+0.03	
2,440	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.1	7.49	11	6162	9371	2.18	2.20	+0.02	
5,200	4,400	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.00	4	402	1948	4.91	4.85	-0.06	
4,180	2,440	JOB. KIBANIT BANK	9.8	0.00	6	456	1252	2.75	2.76	+0.01	
1,660	1,660	JOB. GOLF BANK	10.6	0.00	10	1350	10315	1.78	1.78	0.00	
4,050	3,480	JOB. ISLAMIC BANK	16.0	3.05	94	50520	399005	3.91	3.93	+0.02	
1,800	1,310	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	5	1550	2045	1.26	1.32	+0.06	
2,800	3,000	JOB. FIB. BANK	20.6	9.98	4	550	1754	3.19	3.20	+0.01	
2,450	1,000	SWT. AL-WAL. (BELTIA)	7	13.16	1	150	171	1.14	1.14	0.00	
1,440	880	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	0	0.00	21	8236	7266	0.8	0.82	+0.04	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 217.42 %CHG: -0.24											
1,740	1,350	AMMAN REAL ESTATE	9.4	0.00	1	350	452	1.15	1.29	+0.06	
2,350	1,590	JOB. FRENCH INSUR.	4.5	12.58	6	2500	3674	1.59	1.59	0.00	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 123.25 %CHG: -0.24											
1,820	1,500	JOB. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	25	6254	10439	1.67	1.67	0.00	
6,100	4,100	ABAB TEXT. ROTEX	15.4	4.00	3	950	4750	6.00	5.00	-0.01	
1,550	830	HAZEL PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	30	11600	17404	1.52	1.51	-0.01	
1,030	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.1	6.90	1	200	174	86	87	+0.01	
3,720	2,850	ABAB TEXT. ROTEX	7.8	0.00	2	450	1334	2.97	2.97	0.00	
1,220	1,300	ABAB INDUSTRY	0	0.00	2	600	564	0.93	0.94	+0.01	
2,230	1,430	UNITED CO.	8.0	6.51	5	1000	1605	1.68	1.69	+0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 108.82 %CHG: +0.06											
4,460	3,100	JOB. CEMENT FACT.	27.0	3.74	24	9477	37957	4.00	4.01	+0.01	
4,440	3,120	JOB. PHOSPHATE FERT.	12.1	4.00	3	2411	8614	3.95	4.00	+0.05	
7,050	4,950	ABAB POTASH CO.	15.3	1.03	3	1100	7249	6.60	6.59	-0.01	
10,280	9,040	JOB. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.07	16	1671	16376	9.80	9.80	0.00	
1,470	1,950	MOJIBIN INDUSTRIES	10.4	0.00	1	50	85	1.20	1.20	0.00	
3,260	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	9	0.00	1	50	85	1.20	1.20	0.00	
4,100	3,040	ABAB PAPER, MANUF.	10.9	5.05	23	3998	15763	1.94	1.96	+0.02	
2,570	2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	9	0.00	1	100	248	2.42	2.45	+0.03	
1,620	1,210	JOB. PIPES MANUF.	16.6	5.97	4	3096	2805	1.31	1.34	+0.03	
3,610	2,700	JOB. PAPER CARBON	15.8	0.00	2	222	620	2.85	2.80	-0.05	
8,860	4,300	DAR AL-BAHAR, DEV. INV.	13.3	4.63	10	1350	7250	5.40	5.40	0.00	
3,850	2,400	ABAB ALUM. IND.	6.7	10.20	2	500	1221	2.44	2.45	+0.01	
1,960	1,450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	10	10500	4030	4.6	4.6	0.00	
1,520	1,060	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	5	3750	3530	0.96	0.92	-0.04	
1,300	530	EXPANDED PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	24	14150	7638	54	54	0.00	
1,040	840	JOB. RECOMM. INDUS.	9	0.00	2	500	265	55	55	0.00	
1,980	1,330	JOB. STEEL-PIPE	9	0.00	2	400	248	55	54	-0.01	
1,670	1,120	JOB. STEEL-PIPE	17.4	0.00	11	2995	4079	1.16	1.16	0.00	
1,430	740	SANTER INVEST.	76.9	0.00	1	600	465	0.78	0.78	0.00	
3,020	1,090	UNIV. MOON INDUS.	14.1	2.24	12	4650	5276	1.10	1.09	-0.01	
1,520	1,030	JOB. INDUS. REFIN.	9.52	0.00	6	1200	1261	1.01	1.05	+0.04	
1,600	1,300	HAZEL. CHLORINE	11.0	5.07	5	1050	1449	1.38	1.38	0.00	
1,090	810	JOB. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	9	3750	2285	0.83	0.84	+0.01	
3,090	1,780	WID. EAST READY WEAR	47.5	0.00	8	12900	13207	1.39	1.35	-0.04	
1,330	1,080	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	3	1750	1436	1.26	1.14	-0.12	
1,260	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.9	0.00	11	39350	36120	0.90	0.90	0.00	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 136.08 %CHG: +0.13											
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 167.61 %CHG: -0.08											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 20/07/1997											
1,670	1,410	JOB. TRADE FNC.	13.0	0.00	4	3250	1615	43	45	+0.02	
1,550	1,040	JOB. FIB. INV. CO.	8	0.00	47	117950	68569	58	58	0.00	
1,840	1,660	UNION INV. CO.	9	0.00	20	97250	19453	70	70	0.00	
1,460	1,170	ABAB FIB. INVEST.	9	0.00	30	17350	37161	46	46	0.00	
1,950	1,720	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	7	0.00	1	5000	2600	76	77	+0.01	
1,950	1,810	AL-DAMLIYAN 75%	60.5	0.00	4	3000	1150	56	63	+0.07	
1,590	1,390	ABAB INDUS. REFIN.	41.6	0.00	2	245	91	1.0	1.0	0.00	
1,750	1,490	HAZEL. MULT. ENG. MANUF.	9	0.00	20	26650	13592	51	51	0.00	
1,640	1,340	HAZEL. DYES & HUELS	9	0.00	1	250	108	43	43	0.00	
1,830	1,710	JORDAN STEEL	32.6	0.00	10	15000	11520	72	72	0.00	
1,580	1,430	ABAB ELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	2	12500	6250	50	50	0.00	
1,220	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	3	3280	3642	94	94	0.00	
1,580	1,550	HAZEL. FERTIL. 85%	8	0.00	5	5150	2155	56	57	+0.01	
1,600	1,320	INDUS. ENG.	9	0.00	7	5350	1819	31	31	0.00	
1,530	1,250	J. TEXTILE MANUF.	9	0.00	3	1000	250	35	35	0.00	
1,000	720	HAZEL. REFIN. 75%	9	0.00	1	800	3295	74	75	+0.01	
1,020	790	ABAB TEXT. FOOD FACT.	36.7	0.00	1	250	189	72	76	+0.04	
1,670	1,590	WID. EAST COMPLEX	8.1	15.15	42	39850	26229	64	66	+0.02	
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 199 %CHG: -0.08											

Saudi oil refineries upgraded to meet demand

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is devoting more than \$3 billion to upgrade its major oil refineries to keep pace with rising local product demand and boost middle distillate exports, oil industry sources based in the Gulf have said.

A \$

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "1" <i>Jim Carrey ... in</i> LIAR LIAR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA "2" <i>Keanu Reeves ... in</i> A WALK IN THE CLOUDS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA <i>Tom Cruise...in</i> JERRY MAGUIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 <i>Adel Imam...in</i> BAKHIT AND ADEELAH (PART 2) (Aljardal wal kanaka) Shows: 8:30 - 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" <i>Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in</i> DEVIL'S OWN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" <i>Michael Jordan...in</i> SPACEJAM Shows: 3:30, 6:00	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 The satirical play AMN AI AI YA HO performance starts at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed every Friday. For reservations call 625155
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2nd Division Basketball Final round begins July 25

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final round of the Second Division Basketball Championship starts July 25 with Al Wihdat, Al Jeel, Al Ashrafieh and Al Raya vying for the sole qualifying berth to the First Division as of the 1998 season.

The four teams qualified to the final round after they got the top two places in their respective groups, which included six teams each.

Al Jeel beat Wihdat 71-60 and Al Ashrafieh beat Al Raya 71-53 in the first round.

The 12 competing teams represented both Second and Third Division clubs playing in two groups. Group A included Al Jeel, Abu Nusair, Homentmen, Al Wihdat and Shihan. Group B included Gazet Hashem, Al Raya, Qamuni, Ebbin, Sana and Al Ashrafieh.

While qualification rested on tight competition in the Amman Group A matches, Group B teams in Irbid had the easier ride and seem to have the lesser chance of gaining promotion.

Last year's second division runner-up Al Jeel were the only unbeaten team in the preliminary round and seem to be the only team able to fight it out with newcomers Al Wihdat who are serious contenders for the title.

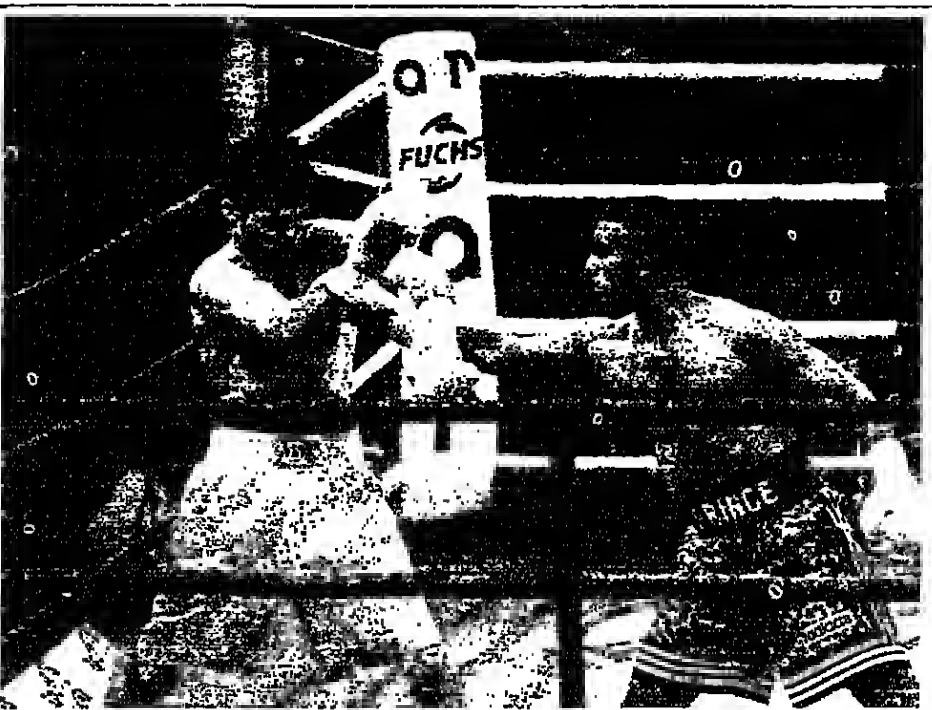
Both teams edged out Homentmen, previously a First Division team, who have failed to gain promotion for the third year running, and Abu Nusair to top the group.

Al Wihdat beat Homentmen 109-84 and both teams tied in overall points but Al Wihdat qualified on score difference.

The First Division now includes Jazireh, Abli, Orthodoxi, and Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team, Al Watani and Yarmouk were relegated to the Second Division this year.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) rules stipulate that Second Division teams be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

Al Wihdat meet Al Ashrafieh Friday, and Al Jeel meet Al Raya Saturday at the JBF court.



Prince Naseem Hamed (R) throws a punch at Argentinian opponent Juan Carbera during their WBO and IBF featherweight championship fight. Hamed retained his titles after the referee stopped the fight in the second round (Reuters photo)

Chang, Korda win semis in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Michael Chang started off strongly, romping to a 6-2 victory in the first set, but he sputtered in the second before beating Brett Steven 7-4 in the tiebreaker in the semifinals at the \$675,000 Legg Mason Tennis Classic on Saturday.

In the other match, second-seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic beat David Wheaton 6-2 6-3.

Top-seed Chang was down 1-4 to a revitalized 11th seeded Steven in the second set. But Chang rallied to run off three games to tie the set and made Steven work hard to hold service and gain a tie-breaker.

Chang ran to a 3-0 lead and held his service until finishing the match off with an overhead smash.

"Things have continued to get better for me this week and maybe I have those tough early matches to thank for it. Being pounced was good for me. I had to hit a lot of balls and that's always good when you're making the transition to hardcourts (from grass)."

Korda breezed past Wheaton, who had a hip lock up on him and spent most of the match "feeling like my feet were in cement."

Korda suffered from the effects of the heat in the earlier rounds and said his match against Wheaton "Would have been a struggle if this had turned into a long match. I went in quite weak."

Back pain forces Seles to concede to Rubin in semifinal

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Hampered by back pain, Monica Seles retired from Saturday's semifinal match against Chanda Rubin in the A and P Tennis classic.

Seles, the top seed and the third-ranked player in the world, won the first set 6-3 and the players were on serve with Rubin leading 3-2 when Seles decided she couldn't continue in the exhibition event.

"I was just in pain really from the beginning," Seles said. "I got some treatment beforehand and some cream on the back and also some pills, but it didn't really help much. It was just a matter of, did I want to keep playing through this pain or not, and knowing that I have a tournament next week, I just feel it's safer to stop than get it even worse."

Although she was leading when she retired, Seles said pain in her back, which athletic trainer Glen Depino called a "back spasm," was bothering her on every point.

"Each time I would try to hit a shot, it was hurting and obviously I'm using my back so much," Seles said. "And it just tightened up on me and I couldn't even bend down. That's why I felt it was hugging me a lot on the serve and it was not worth it."

Seles started feeling the pain during her three-set victory over Mirjana Lucic on Friday night. That match was delayed 2 1/2 hours by rain and she lasted 1 hour, 39 minutes as Seles had to come back from 4-2 in the second set to win 6-4, 7-5, 6-0.

On Saturday, Seles' first asked for the trainer during



Chanda Rubin

the changeover break with Rubin leading 3-2 in the first set. The trainer massaged her lower back during the next two changeovers

and Seles was able to play through the pain to win the first set, getting a service break in the eighth game by putting away a forehand

volley at the net. Seles said she still intends to play in the Bank of the West Classic next week at Stanford, Calif.

Corretja wins Stuttgart final

STUTTGART (AFP) — Spaniard Alex Corretja completed a hat-trick of 1997 clay court victories but had to do double duty by winning both a semi-final and final Sunday at the \$1.04 million Mercedes Cup.

Corretja defeated Slovakian Karol Kucera 6-2, 7-5 to claim the crown at the Weissenhof club, but had to steady his nerves after he let a 5-1 lead slip in the second set.

Up two breaks, Corretja lost them both as he failed to seal the win in the seventh and ninth games. But he finally broke Kucera a final time to secure the win.

The triumph followed the Spaniard's 6-4, 6-4 morning semi-final win over compatriot Albert Costa, the ninth seed who missed Wimbledon due to a back injury.

Corretja added the Stuttgart title to those he won in April and May at Estoril, Portugal, and in Rome at the Italian Open.

In addition to a cheque for \$157,000, the third seed also won a Mercedes sponsored.

Kucera, who represented a fourth all-Spanish final this year on the ATP Tour through his 6-4, 6-3 victory against Albert Portas, collected \$82,000 in runner-up money.

Corretja, now ranked a career-high sixth on the ATP Tour computer, kept his momentum and stamina through both matches — played within hours of each other following rain delays on Friday and Saturday.

The final battle of slugging baseliners was reduced from the best-of-five sets to best-of-three.

"It will be difficult to keep up this high level," said Corretja after his win. "I got a little nervous when serving for the match."

Kucera started playing better and better, he didn't miss.

"But I regained my concentration and finished the match in two sets — that's what I wanted."

Kucera said: "I couldn't keep up with Alex today. I'm sorry we couldn't make it to a tiebreaker."

The win kept Corretja's record perfect in his career

series against Kucera, ranked 45th in the world. The Spaniard won first-round matches against the Slovakian in 1995 at Estoril and Amsterdam, both on clay.

Corretja also maintained the year's best win-loss record on clay as he recorded his 37th victory on the surface against just a dozen defeats.

He said he believes the high-flying Spaniards are feeding off competition from each other.

"You might be No. 10 in the world, but there are still other Spaniards ahead of you," he said. "You win a tournament and no one really recognises you. On the other hand, that

can be quite convenient as well."

"We have a good system in Spain, all of the players are friends and hang out together. It is working very well for us. We've always had a good relationship and we are all very competitive on the clay."

"There is no secret to our success except for hard work, a lot of it."

Corretja will play next week as third seed in a clay event in Kitzbuhel, Austria, before moving across the Atlantic for the North American hardcourt season.

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Job Vacancy at U.N. Agency

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 3. The Agency is an equal opportunity employer.
 4. This vacancy is open only for dynamic, energetic persons with highly developed analytical skills.
 5. Candidates should be Jordanian nationals.
- Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications not later than 15 August 1997 in a sealed envelope to the attention of "The Representative". Applicants should ensure that curriculum vitae, photocopies of their university degrees and past professional experience should be mailed to the following address:
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TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Ariel Sharon, having lost a bid for more power in government, is rallying disaffected lawmakers behind a plan that would ease Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ouster.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Ariel Sharon, having lost a bid for more power in government, is rallying disaffected lawmakers behind a plan that would ease Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ouster.

Mr. Netanyahu this month denied Sharon — the 69-year-old national infrastructure minister and a hawkish former general — the job of finance minister and a role in shaping negotiating strategy opposite the Palestinians.

Labour opposition legislators Shimon Peres and Moshe Shahal said they discussed with Mr. Sharon his proposal to lower to 61 — from 80 — the number of members in the 120-seat parliament legally required to oust a prime minister.

"If there are 61 members of Knesset who say the prime minister isn't worthy of the confidence of the Knesset, that is a majority of the people...represented by the parties," Mr. Shahal told army radio on Sunday.

Israel's Haaretz daily said Mr. Sharon had also discussed the idea with fellow Likud Party legislator Dan Meridor, who resigned the post of finance minister last month saying he had no confidence in Mr. Netanyahu.

Mr. Sharon has complained that Mr. Netanyahu, 47, does not involve experienced cabinet members, including himself, in making decisions about peace-

parliament legally required to oust a prime minister.

"If there are 61 members of Knesset who say the prime minister isn't worthy of the confidence of the Knesset, that is a majority of the people...represented by the parties," Mr. Shalom told army radio on Sunday.

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Mr. Sharon has complained that Mr. Netanyahu, 47, does not involve experienced cabinet members, including himself, in making decisions about peace-

making with the Palestinians.

Asked about the proposal, a spokesman for Sharon said: "At this stage Mr. Sharon does not want to make any comment on the subject."

Mr. Netanyahu last year became the first directly elected prime minister under reforms some in parliament assail as giving him too much power.

Currently, 61 legislators can both bring down Mr. Netanyahu and dissolve parliament at once. But 80 are needed to topple only the prime minister. Mr. Netanyahu has a 66-54 majority in parliament.

Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet secretary, Danny Naveh,

called the effort to change the law "clearly anti-democratic."

"Knesset members with various political considerations want in fact to rob the voter of the choice. It's impossible," he said.

Israeli Labour Party leader Ehud Barak welcomed Mr. Sharon's effort, telling army radio: "It testifies to the depth of the crisis of confidence that Netanyahu has reached with people who came to power with him."

Mr. Netanyahu passed over Mr. Sharon for the finance ministry post and a greater policymaking role to end a power struggle with Foreign Minister David Levy that threatened the government coalition.

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli army war game found Palestinian and Israeli casualties would be in the thousands if Israel re-took areas under PNA rule, local media said on Sunday.

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli army war game found Palestinian and Israeli casualties would be in the thousands if Israel re-took areas under PNA rule, local media said on Sunday.

"From the simulation it arose...hundreds of Israeli soldiers would be killed and thousands wounded. The Palestinians...would suffer thousands killed from amidst the Palestinian police and the civilian population," Israel's Maariv daily said.

Israel, in deals signed by its prior dovish government, has handed over most of the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank to PNA rule since 1994.

Maariv and the daily Yedioth Ahronoth said the army general staff concluded from the war game conducted one month ago that while re-occupying PNA areas was possible it was not the preferred response to an outbreak of hostilities.

Army spokesmen refused to comment on the reports.

Tension has been high between the sides since March when Israel launched a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, a move Palestinians viewed as pre-empting final peace talks.

The daibes said right-wing legislator Uzi Landau, who is head of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, and left-wing legislator Uzi Baram attended the war game.

Mr. Baram refused to comment on the reports to Reuters.

Mr. Landau, of Likud, told Israel's army radio he would neither confirm nor deny the reports. But he added: "the fact that our reentry into the Palestinian cities could entail a not small cost is not something that should be surprising."

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"It is not in Israel's interest to get up one fine day,

mobilise and attempt to re-enter the Palestinian cities. But it must be no less clear. The Palestinians cannot feel as if we would not allow ourselves the necessary operations in their territory, including entering wide parts of Area A," he said.

"Area A" designates territory under Palestine National Authority (PNA) control.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who opposed the peace deals, handed over most of the city of Hebron, fulfilling a commitment made by the administration he ousted in May 1996 elections.

His green light for the east Jerusalem settlement building plunged negotiations with the Palestinians into deep crisis. Palestinian anger has erupted periodically into clashes between Israeli troops firing rubber bullets and stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators.

But the scenario the Israeli generals fear is a repeat of fighting like that of September 1996 when Palestinian police firing automatic weapons were drawn into the unrest. Sixty-one Palestinians and 15 Israeli soldiers were killed.

In September, Israel revealed it had activated the first phase of "operation field of thorns," a plan whose final third stage is the retaking of areas handed to the PNA.

Maariv said given the likely toll of re-taking PNA areas — and the damage such bloodshed would cause Israel internationally and with Arab states in particular — the army preferred other means if fighting broke out with Palestinian forces.

Those measures would include bermedically sealing off the areas, massively reinforcing points of friction and deploying helicopter gunships and snipers.

PEACE 4 EVER: Six-year-old Conor McKeown attends the Sinn Fein rally at the Andersinstown Road Belfast Saturday. The British government Sunday announced that it will resume official contact with Sinn Fein, as soon as the IRA ceasefire is restored at mid-day Sunday (AFP photo)

BELFAST (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) began a new cease-fire at midday Sunday, giving Northern Ireland's divided people another taste of peace and many new uncertainties.

At their church services across Northern Ireland, Catholics and Protestants prayed for this cease-fire to last longer than the previous IRA truce of Sept. 1, 1994, which ended 17 months ago with a one-tonne truck bomb in London.

Three Irish newspapers, each quoting unidentified IRA sources, said IRA commanders will withdraw the new truce, which is official-

ly open-ended, after four months if there isn't sufficient progress in negotiations on Northern Ireland's future.

But Gerry Adams, president of the IRA-allied Sinn Féin party, dismissed the reports.

"That's news to me," he told RTE, the Irish state broadcast network. "That's the first I've heard of this and I'm not going to let ... journalists set the agenda."

Minutes before the ceasefire took effect, Katie O'Donnell led a west Belfast Catholic congregation in prayer that "all sections of our society may open their

hearts to the prospect of peace and work together for a political settlement that is fair to all."

At the service at Clonard Monastery, she led prayers, too, for "all those who have died in the conflict," in the past 28 years — some 3,400 in Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic and mainland Britain.

Sinn Féin marked the start of the cease-fire with a rally outside the heavily fortified police and army barracks in Andersonstown, west Belfast.

"Release all POWs now," one said. Another read, "stop the torture of Irish prisoners."

in English jails." The prisoners offered a foretaste of demands likely to be made to the British government in the coming weeks.

As their politicians illustrated, the two communities can't agree on the next step in negotiations.

After assuring leaders of the Sinn Féin party that they could join negotiations within six weeks of a cease-fire, the new British government of Prime Minister Tony Blair must persuade the biggest Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, to stay at the table.

**Three convicted for
to kill Spain's k**

SEVILL (R) — Spain's high court sentenced Basque separatist guerrillas to prison for plotting to kill King Juan Carlos I and other officials, said Monday. The court sentences on Juan Jose F. Irujo and Ignacio on crimes against the state in an armed band. The trial drew interest among Spaniards who had, January 22

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U.S. says Iraq
submits aid plan
approval

RIYADH (R) — The United Nations in Baghdad Monday that Iraq had submitted a new oil sales plan, the terms of which have been agreed to by U.N. officials, to U.N. headquarters in New York, the govern-

GAZA special gaging Palestinian Authorities Yasser sack senior appropri and abuse "It is money. that, if i manager nence at home," Rahini, general

the distribution of the approved benefits of the crude oil and gas. The diplomatic mission took that it was a week and a half from the General Secretary and other U.S. officials to the public selling stage in Iraq to achieve the pricing for the crude oil sale.

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Pakistan

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